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It is particularly requested that all business letters regarding the supply of the paper, &c., may be addressed to the Publisher, and not to the Editor.

## LITERATURE.

"ENGLISH MEN OF LETTERS."

Burke. By John Morley. (Macmillan & Co.) MR. MORLEY's latest monograph on Burke appears in the form of a contribution to his own series of literary biographies. No one could have executed the task better. Mr. Morley, as everyone knows, has made a special study of his subject. He tells us the story of Burke's life, on the whole, most completely and truthfully, and all the while manages to hit the requirements of popular biography with singular dexterity. For Mr. Morley is ever brisk and picturesque; he is never too long, too profound, or too original, though some may think him here and there just a little too strenuously clever; he marshals his incidents with an artist's eye to effect; he tempers his warm and generous enthusiasm with the sternest of criticism, dangling the critical balance before the reader's eye with a graceful air; and the total result, in a literary sense, is a masterpiece such as Mr. Morley alone could have produced, and such as he may well contem-plate with satisfaction. Mr. Morley has, in every part of his book, done ample justice to himself; we wish he had taken the pains, in one part of it, to do more ample justice to Burke.

Except in one or two such questions as that of Burke's sensibility (p. 130), on which we think Lord Macaulay right and Mr. Morley wrong, we find but little to disagree with in the first two-thirds of his bookthat is to say, up to the French Revolution.
As to the facts, he is here on sure ground, and the reader may follow him with confidence. In dealing with the latter part of Burke's life Mr. Morley is less successful. What a world of trouble would have been saved if Burke had only been good enough to die before reaching his grand climacteric! In the first stage of the Revolution controversy Mr. Morley cannot avoid a passing regret (p. 145) that Burke did not share the "fine illusion" of Wordsworth and Coleridge. Does he not forget, for the moment, that Burke was not a young poet, but an old and wary statesman, forty years past the age of fine illusions, and one who had been in the maturity of his powers and reputation when those illusionable youths were in their cradles? But as we get deeper and deeper into what Mr. Morley (p. 146) appropriately calls the "cataracts," and the "boiling gulfs," and the "malestroms," and the abysmal rush of the Falls of Niagara," even Mr. Morley, with all his sympathies to

the contrary, is fain to admit that Burke was right, and that the abysmal rush, after all, was a different business from the Bridgewater Canal or the Chelsea Waterworks (p. 147). Burke's prophecies came true, and that for the very reasons that he had adduced (p. 156); history ratifies nearly all his strictures on the politicians whom he attacked (p. 157), and his views on the early blunders of the Revolution coincide almost exactly with De Tocqueville, and Quinet, and Comte (p. 158). Burke, though a curious mystic in political science (p. 165. Was he more of a mystic, it occurs to us, than Aristotle, Cicero, Montaigne, and Bacon?), was ever consistent; to hold a man to his formulae, well says Mr. Morley, without reference to their special application, is pure pedantry (p. 168). After taking about ten per cent. discount off the sum total of Burke's excellences by a rapid and triumphant parallel of him with Turgot, Mr. Morley concludes the laudatory part of his work by a quotation of Burke's most temperate utterance on the Revolution (p. 177), from which he is quite right in drawing the conclusion that Burke was not without "faith in the beneficent powers and processes of the Unseen Time.'

Mr. Morley's ninth chapter deals with the remnant of Burke's career, and he here abandons the far more sensible and historical point of view which he adopted in a former biography of Burke, written for the Encyclopaedia Britannica. Mr. Morley there admitted that the Regicide Peace letters had some feeble show of reason. Here, however, he holds them to be merely "deplorable." "Empty words, reckless phrases, senseless vituperations, surge and boil around" (p. 201). "The whole performance rests on a gross and inexcusable anachronism" (p. 202), namely, the assumption that French policy and politicians under the Directory were the same as French policy and politicians under the Convention; and Burke here becomes utterly "reckless," "childish," and "repulsive" (p. 203).

ve" (p. 203).

Now, that Burke's arguments against the attempts to procure a Regicide Peace rested on this sole assumption is not the fact. Like the arguments of Cicero against peace with Antony—arguments which, by-the-way, were constantly present to Burke's mind—they rested on the opinion, afterwards so plainly demonstrated, that no peace was in the cir-cumstances possible, and that, if a peace were made, it would be but a hollow one. France was triumphant. Fools indeed would her politicians have been if they had forborne to pursue the enormous advantages she had gained, and was daily gaining; the only way to procure peace was a vigorous prosecution of the war. But Mr. Morley keeps all the historical facts out of sight, and represents Burke as simply raving like a maniac against "Regicide." Not a word does he say of the progress of that great war which had already given a direction to European history that lasted twenty years, though on the incidents of this progress Burke's whole argument depended; not a word of the fruitless overtures for peace which had been made before Burke took up his pen; not a word of the senseless and futile condition of public opinion, or of the flimsy arguments by which Lord Auck-

land and others had striven to influence it. We do not accuse Mr. Morley of lack of candour. But he has somehow contrived to keep out of sight the mass of the facts of the question; and, when they are brought to light, Mr. Morley's case vanishes at once into thin air. Besides this fundamental error of omission, Mr. Morley falls into some curious errors of commission. The "Appeal from the New to the Old Whigs," he says, was the last of Burke's measured, sober, calm utterances. Henceforth it is only the minatory exhortation of a prophet (p. 184). But the very passage which Mr. Morley quotes half-a-dozen pages back as a ray of the mens divinior, and as evidence of Burke's faith in the beneficent processes of the Un-seen Time, was written and published months after the "Appeal" (December 1791). It is from the "Thoughts on French Affairs," in which Burke, weary of the words of controversy, and foreseeing no immediate fulfilment of his anticipations, renounced the French and all their works, and declared that he had "done with this subject for ever" (Works, vol. vii., p. 84). Yet, incredible as it may seem, this is the very tract in which Mr. Morley sees him "launched on the full tide of his policy. The French Revolution must be hemmed in by a cordon of fire. Those who sympathised with it in England must be gagged, and, if gagging did not suffice, they must be taught respect for the Constitution in dungeons and on the gallows. His cry for war abroad and arbitrary tyranny at home waxed louder every day" (p. 187). Burke, however, "still remained without a following" (p. 188), until the King's execution in January 1793 (p. 191). To say that Burke ever called for arbitrary tyranny at home is pure calumny; and we defy Mr. Morley to adduce a single passage in support of it. As for the utterances to which he appears to allude, they were published nearly five years later. The successes of the French arms in 1792 first alarmed English politicians, and Burke's cool, masterly, and important recapitulation of them ("Heads for Consideration," November 5, 1792) Mr. Morley does not deign to notice. There was by this time no need of any "minatory exhortation." There was no question of "hemming in the Revolution by a cordon of fire." The cordon of fire blazed the other way. The Revolutionary armies had conquered and annexed Belgium and Savoy; they threatened Holland, Switzerland, and Italy; they had penetrated into the heart of Germany; a hundred and fifty revolutionary men-of-war swept the Mediterranean, threatening Spain and Egypt. All this time, and long after, Burke uttered not a word to justify Mr. Morley's thoughtless accusation. When it was proposed to revive the overtures for peace three years afterwards, when the allies were thoroughly beaten and cowed, he did indeed break out with some of his old ferocity; but up to this point he was, as Mr. Morley says of Turgot, a man of many silences, and of much suspense.

The blunder into which Mr. Morley has so oddly fallen has some equally odd consequences. If Burke was everlastingly "in the midst of a fiery whirlwind of intense passion," the "calm and solid reasoning" of the "Letter to Sir Hercules Langrishe" (January 1792;

and the next work in order after the mens divinior passage) would indeed be, as Mr. Morley terms it, "a singular interlude." Mr. Morley finds another "interlude" in the "Thoughts on Scarcity" (November 1795). "written immediately before sitting down to write the flaming Letters on a Regicide Peace.'" As a matter of fact it was written immediately after them and while the writer was contemplating a third, which he began, but never finished and never published. We cannot make out Mr. Morley's chronology of these letters. According to him, Windham declared "the holy rage of the Fourth Letter on a Regicide Peace, pub-lished after Burke's death, to contain the purest wisdom and the most unanswerable policy." Now, as Windham died in 1810, and the Fourth Letter was only published by Dr. Walker King in 1812, this remarkable declaration could not have been made by Windham, at least not in the flesh. Perhaps Mr. Morley means the Third Letter. But in this, though there is a sparing infusion of exceedingly bitter irony, there is no holy rage, such as abounds in the Fourth Letter. Our difficulty in ascertaining exactly what Mr. Morley does mean in this curious chapter is aggravated by his total neglect of chronological order. He makes a veritable voyage en zigzag. At p. 177, we start with December '91; then we are are taken back to December '90; then on to May and August '91; then back to January; then on to December; then into the summer of '92; then back to the winter of '91; then on to the spring of '92; then on to January '93; then back to the dagger scene in December '92; then we have the coalition in '94; then at last, at p. 197, we get back to January '92, and so on. It is like Burke's description of the Irish journey in the Third Letter; it is oscillation rather than progression. Why not have given us a plain, clear, straightforward narrative such as Mr. Morley can write so well when he chooses?

Mr. Morley's carelessness sticks by him even to the end. The style by which it was proposed to make Burke a peer (p. 198) was not Lord Beaconsfield, but Lord Burke. Nobody would have noticed this trifle but for Mr. Morley's unnecessary sneer at the present Lord Beaconsfield, who "borrowed" this name, probably less from his "delight in irony, than because it is the name of a town in the next parish but one to that in which he lives. The school for emigrant children was not at Beaconsfield (p. 205), but at Tyler's Green, in the parish of Penn. Burke's pension, says Mr. Morley (p. 200), was made "a charge on a certain stock known as the West India 41 per cents." How could a pension be charged on a "stock"? Has Mr. Morley never read of the 41 per cent. duty on the produce of the Leeward Islands—imposed by the Colonial Assembly for local purposes, pounced on by the Crown, enumerated by Burke himself, in the "Present Discontents," among its un-accounted-for revenues, remitted by the colonies in kind, that is, in dutiable sugar, and actually smuggled in at a profit of £30,000 a year by the British Government? All this was a trite story with the reformers of the last generation, as was also the fact that Mrs. Burke's executors drew her pension of £2,500

regularly, a quarter-of-a-century after her death. This is not consistent with Mr. Morley's statement (p. 200) that her pension was £1,200 a year for her life. Altogether we cannot help thinking this nin b chapter not worthy of the rest of the book. It would cost Mr. Morley very little trouble to write it over again. E. J. PAYNE.

#### POPULAR BOTANY.

Wild Flowers worth Notice. By Mrs. Lankester. (Bogue.)

Gardening at a Glance. By G. Glenny. (Routledge.)

Town and Window Gardening. By Catherine M. Buckton. (Longmans.)

MRS. LANKESTER'S pretty volume is an old friend in a new dress, and as such deserves a hearty welcome. A better companion for a country ramble we do not know, or one more likely to promote an intelligent and lively interest in the minds of the young people for whom it is designed. The "wild flowers worth notice" are chiefly those which attract notice and are of common occurrence. The Turk's Cap lily (lilium martagon), however, certainly does not fulfil the latter condition, and Mrs. Lankester is far too bold in her assertion that "wherever there is a patch of waste ground there may be seen the dull yellow blossoms of the henbane." In point of fact, this dangerous plant is in many localities very rare, and unless an unusually dry season occurs may, for a long period, remain altogether unknown. influence of exceptional seasons on the development of certain plants has been but little noticed. The coloured illustrations in Mrs. Lankester's book are, for the most part, very successful, avoiding that harshness and exaggeration of tint by which chromo-lithographs are generally distinguished.

No one knows better than Mr. Glenny that Gardening cannot be learnt at a Glance, but that it is a study-albeit a delightful one -which demands time, patience, and careful attention. What Mr. Glenny has done in the volume before us is to give, month by month, a clear summary of the work which the garden demands; and to supplement this by a mass of simple information as to every branch of horticulture. There are some useful recipes for the prevention and cure of ordinary garden-ills, and innumerable hints for lightening labour and rendering it profitable. A chapter is devoted to the management of the lawn, another to the culture of ferns, and a third deals with that rather unsatisfactory subject, popular annuals. The book may be recommended as a thoroughly practical manual written by one who knows his business as a workman, and not as a mere

Mrs. Buckton is a member of the Leeds School Board, and has long been endeavouring to foster a love of flowers in the children with whom she has to do. The spirit of emulation was easily stirred by means of an annual exhibition of plants grown in window-boxes or pots by the children in their own homes; but experience taught her that successful cultivation depended upon some knowledge of the nature and growth of plants being

acquired by their cultivators. This Mrs. Buckton endeavoured to impart by means of simple lectures, and we believe that she has met with considerable success in her praiseworthy undertaking. We must, however, add that there seem to us to be far too many hard words in these lectures to fit them for general use without supplementary explananation and an abundant use of the objects to which reference is made. The instructions for town and window gardening are very useful, and, if followed, will avert a good deal of the disappointment which often follows ill-advised attempts to turn town into country.

Charles J. Robinson.

Seventh Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts. Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. (Printed by Eyre & Spottiswoode.)

## (Second Notice.)

For the reigns of Charles II. and James II. the reader will find much information among the correspondence of several of the collections, gossiping letters of political and town news. Sir Frederick Graham's MSS. are of special value, as consisting chiefly of the official papers of Richard Graham, Viscount Preston, who was ambassador to France in 1682—85, and Secretary of State at the close of James's reign. His letters from Paris are not only useful for their general information, but are also valuable for the light they cast upon the peculiar relations of parties in England with the French Court, whose policy favoured internal distractions in a country which, if united, might be a formidable rival. He speaks plainly on this subject in a letter to Lord Halifax of the 5th October 1683, just after receiving news of the discovery of the Rye House Plot. Describing an interview with Louis, he says:—

"I recounted to him all that my letters mentioned of the discovery and of the conspirators. I must say to your lordship that I thought that I observed a sudden alteration in his look, which expressed a more than usual concern.

. . . Some things which are come to my knowledge since make me believe that the notice of so fatal a blow to the factious party amongst us as that discovery gave was not too agreable to this Court at that time."

About the same time Lord Preston received a hint from home to watch the movements of Burnet, who had been figuring with much complacency at the French Court. At Versailles,

"he had the greatest reception imaginable; the King took very great notice of him, he was presented to the Dauphin, caressed by people of quality of both sexes to the greatest degree that could be. The waters played for him through all the gardens, and there was one of the Dauphin's coaches ready to carry him to see them, and he made use of it."

However, Lord Preston took care to "give the character here of Dr. Burnet, which he deserveth;" and so the Doctor was dropped.

As a point of diplomatic etiquette of the time, it may be noticed that the ambassador receives a lecture on the impropriety of using the phrase "Sa Majesté Britannique"—a

style which "the King's Ministers do avoid"instead of "le Roy mon Maistre," when corresponding with tor-igners.

The Graham papers also include many let ers of the year of the Revolution, written from different parts of the country, and vividly describing the rapid course of events. It is a satisfaction to read that James, at the last moment, refused to allow mortars to be mounted to threaten the city of London. The sailing of William's fleet, and the excitement in Holland, are reported in a series of letters from the Marquis d'Albyville, the English Minister at the Hague. Writing of the desertion of James by his people, he says :-

"Those of the States declare openly that no King was ever so ill served and so betrayed. They exclaim against the ever infamous treachery of Churchell, a man so raised by the King from nothing;"

and, when the rumour of the calling of a Parliament reached Holland,

"the Princess was extraordinarily surprised, and asked if it was her father or her husband that called the Parliament. All the Prince's friends are extraordinary troubled at it; they doubted not but the King would be taken, fly away, or be killed, and the Prince presently proclaimed King."

A detailed account of William's expedition. written apparently by some one who ac-companied it, is printed from the original among the Earl of Denbigh's MSS. In the same collection is also a series of letters which, as the Commissioners justly remark in their Report, may be reckoned among the most important family archives which the Commission has brought to light. The series begins with a single letter of September 8, 1686, and then extends from May 1691 to the beginning of 1694. The gap between the first and second letters may be attributed rather to the movements of the correspondents than to any imperfection. The writer, who employs the French language, was resident at the English Court, and the friend to whom he wrote was living perhaps at the Hague, to a merchant of which place the first letter is addressed, no doubt for transmission. Mr. Knowles, to whom we are indebted for the description of Lord Denbigh's collection, has conjectured that the recipient of the letters was Dykvelt, and he shows good reason for the identification. But he has been baffled in his researches for the name of the writer; and, although he tells us that the first letter is signed with initials, he unfortunately has omitted to say what those initials are. We are thus deprived of the only tangible clue to guide us to the writer's identity. There can, however, be hardly a doubt that he was attached to the Queen's household. The way in which Mary is often introduced in the narration of various incidents seems to prove that he was in a position to be near her person. This will be seen in the following passages, which may be also quoted for their general interest :-

" 10 Juillet 1691.

"My Lord Godolfin a l'honneur de parler souvent à la Reyne, en particulier et en public. Hyer à l'issue des prieres il l'entretint environ demye heure entourée de cent personnes. On

remarqua qu'il rit deux ou trois fois, ce qui ne luy arrive guère.'

" 09 Oat bre, 1691.

"Je vous ecris, Monsieur, extraordinairement ce soir Lundy à minuit parce qu'il a environ trois heures que Mr. de Medac, fils du General Ginckel, est arrivé a Witchall avec la Capitulation de Limerik, et la Reyne luy a commandé de partir demain Mardy pour aller porter cette bonne nouvelle au Roy en Holande. J'ay eté le premier qui ay conduit cet exprez à la Reyne lors qu'elle joüoit à la bassette."

" 30 Octobre, 1691.

"Le Roy a eu un fort heureux passage. Il arriva hyer au soir Lundy à onze heures à Witchall et il etoit party d'Holande avant hyer dimanche. Il mit pied à terre dans un mechant village nommé Marquet à l'embouchure de la Tamise à soixante huit milles d'icy d'où il vint dans de mechans carrosses jusque à Gravezinde, dont l'un renyersa d'assez haut, mais par bonheur sa majesté qui etoit sous my lord Portland p'ent avuin peu de mal au bras. n'eut qu'un peu de mal au bras. Elle rencontra de ses carrosses qu'on avoit envoyé de tous cotez et traversa la ville de Londres replié de feux de joye et d'illuminations jusques replie de feux de joye et d'illuminations jusques aux toits des maisons, tout le monde etant aux fenetres, la pluspart en deshabille, et criant de toute leur force. Le petit peuple etant dans les rues embarassoit fort son carrosse qu'on conduisit jusques à Witchall avec des cris de joye extraordinaires. C'est là où je l'attendois, joye extraordinaires. C'est là où je l'attendois, joye ma main à la portiere de son carrosse. je mis ma main à la portière de son carrosse. Il me demanda si la Reyne etoit à Witehall. Je luy dis qu'elle l'attendoit il y avoit long-temps, et j'eus l'honneur de luy aider à de-scendre du carrosse. En traversant les apartemens on uzoit les mains à force de les baiser. Lors qu'il fut dans la chambre de la Reyne il la baiza deux fois et en suite les dames.

The writer also held a sinecure in Jamaica. Whether he was, as is asserted in the Report, a native of that island may be doubted, as by his reference to "mon pais La Jamaique" he may only mean the country in which he held an office. If the cypher number 38 in these letters refers (as there seems good reason to believe it does) to the Queen, then there can be no question that she was personally interested in the writer, for on one occasion 38 writes in his favour to the Governor of Jamaica.

It may be suggested that the writer was Mary's secretary, Abel Tasien d'Allonne. His excuse for writing betimes because of the number of letters that he has to write on post-day (p. 214) favours the idea that he was employed as a secretary; and the break in the series after the first letter is explained if the writer was d'Allonne. For he was not resident in England before the Revolution, though he certainly paid visits to this country in James's reign.

The letters offer a very interesting sketch of the political and social events of the time. Some of the most amusing stories are referred to by Mr. Knowles in his Introduction, par-ticularly the account of the Lord Mayor's show of 1691, in which the most agreeable part of it was "une grande quantité d'orangers avec quantité de figures de Raperies d'Irlande pendus aux branches." In another passage it is also pleasing to find that Burnet, who, in spite of his kindly reception in France already noticed, had in a sermon referred to Louis as the Grand Turk of the West, received a quiet hint from William not to print words so offensive to the most Christian King.

The Scottish collections described in this Report consist mainly of charters. Of the Duke of Athole's MSS. the correspondences is reserved for a future Report, with the exception of two documents given here on account of their special interest, viz., Lord George Murray's memorial to the Young Pretender for the appointment of a controlling committee and the spirited refusal that it called forth. Among the charters will be found some curious customs. For example, about A.D. 1290, the land of Dalrewach was held for certain rents, including a pair of lacing boots to the Earl of Strathearn.

The portion of the Marquis of Ormonde's collection described in this Report begins with the year 1680, and contains correspondence of the Duke of Ormonde with his eldest son, the Earl of Ossory, whose untimely death took place in that year, and with others on important subjects. Mr. Gilbert prints all such letters in full, and gives tabulated lists of the ordinary correspondence—a convenient method

which facilitates reference.

Space will not allow us to do more than refer to the many subjects of domestic and scientific interest which will be found scattered through the Appendix. For the history of London in 1648 we may notice a petition (p. 7) against the "multitude of hackneycoaches that are continually standing in and pestering the streets" near the Strand, and to another (p. 53) from the inhabitants of Longacre to put down a brewhouse-

"whereby as well divers honorable personages and gentlemen of quality as the neighbours dwelling thereabouts in general will be much prejudiced in their health and substance by the continual stench and annoyance of the sea-coal smoke and unwholesome vapours occasioned thereby."

The letters of George Berkeley, afterwards Dean of Derry and Bishop of Cloyne, who writes, perhaps, too much about his scheme for founding a college in the Bermudas, have some interesting allusions to Addison, Steele, and Swift, who also figure in the Ormonde and other collections. Berkeley was present at the performance of Cato with Addison

"and two or three more friends in a side box, and two or three more friends in a side box, where we had a table and two or three flasks of burgundy and champagne, with which the author (who is a very sober man) thought it necessary to support his spirits. . . . Some parts of the prologue, written by Mr. Pope, a Tory and even a Papist, were hissed, being thought to savour of Whiggism, but the clap got much [the better of] the hiss."

The Index is not worthy of the Report. Little or no attempt has been made to identify names, and consequently references to the same person are often scattered under different headings. Nor can the system be commended of placing a jumble of titles under one head ; e.g., references to Hackney, Co. Middlesex, and to coaches and coachmen under the one head of Hackney might lead the unwary to suppose that all coaches and coachmen belonged to that parish. Such an Index may serve its purpose in a very rough and ready way; but in a work of reference, such as this Report must be considered, one looks for something different.

E. MAUNDE THOMPSON.

The Famines of the World: Past and Present. By Cornelius Walford. (Stanford.)

This is a reprint of two consecutive papers recently read before the Statistical Society. The subject is in itself sufficiently wide, but Mr. Walford has chosen to comprehend an infinite variety of extraneous matter. Struck by the fact that no complete list of famines has ever been compiled, he set himself with characteristic industry to supply the deficiency. But his chronological table of famines occupies less than twenty pages out of a total of 300. The rest is made up of similar but longer lists enumerating in chronological order all the different circumstances that may conceivably be regarded as influencing the food supply of a people. Droughts, floods, frosts, and storms among natural phenomena, and ignorant legislation in the sphere of human interference, are among the most prominent of such circumstances. It is evident that Mr. Walford has spared no pains in the attempt to make his catalogues exhaustive. Wherever an allusion is to be found in history to natural calamities or to high prices, he has pounced upon it and arranged it in its proper place. The Library of the British Museum has been ransacked in the search for obscure pamphlets and sermons illustrating the subject. Recourse has been had to the statutes at large in order to expose in detail the mischievous course of action persistently adopted in former times by the British Parliament. The result is a vast collection of facts and figures which cannot fail to be of the greatest use to any future enquirer who shall adopt a more appropriate method of treatment. For, with all due consideration for Mr. Walford's enthusiasm, it must be at once said that he has failed to throw any new light upon the matter. His subject is one not capable of statistical investigation, and his mode of treatment has nothing whatever to do with the methods of statistics. Famines are intricate events, produced by a great number of separate or combined causes, and complicated by conditions of time and place. Like wars or political convulsions, they require to be considered from the standpoint of the historian, and can only be explained by a laborious comparison of all the surrounding circumstances. In every case, a failure of the local harvest must be the proximate cause; but whether such a failure shall result in general starvation, or merely produce a moderate rise in the price of food-stuffs, depends upon a variety of conditions which it is almost impossible to enumerate.

Take, for example, the recent famine in Southern India, which attained dimensions large enough to awaken the sympathy of Europe. To attribute it to drought, without more, would be an idle explanation, and as near falsehood as truth. The ultimate causes are to be sought in the general conditions of the country, its meteorology, its agriculture, its geographical outlines, its density of population, its backwardness in means of communication and in trade. Excluding the narrow strip of coast beneath the Western Gháts and the deltas of the three eastward flowing rivers, the entire south of the Indian peninsula, known from time immemorial as the Deccan (Dakshin = south), is permanently exposed to the great calamities of Nature. Though lying near the "irrigation" is not an adequate panacea. So

equator, it is not blessed with the abundant rainfall of the tropics. On the whole, the soil is naturally barren, and means of artificial irrigation are few. The rivers drain rather than water their valleys, and none of them can be utilised for navigation. There is not a single natural harbour along the long line of sea-board, and the staples grown for export are comparatively insignificant. In this unpromising region, a dense population had grown up under the protection of the Pax Britannica and a lenient revenue system. No trustworthy statistics are available, but there is good reason to believe that the number of inhabitants had doubled within the present century; but the natural productiveness of the soil had not augmented in proportion to the growth of population. The use of manure and the advantages of high cultivation are alike unknown. Large areas of waste land have been brought under the plough, but there has been no general improvement in the modes of agriculture, which under British rule has become the sole occupation of the people, even more absolutely than in former times. When Europeans first landed on the Coromandel coast, more than two centuries ago, they found the native kingdoms in a comparatively high stage of civilisation. Towns were numerous and large, while manufactures were at least as highly advanced as in contemporary Europe. It was the development of the weaving industry that led to the first settlements at Masulipatam and Madras, Tranquebar and Masunpatam and Madras, Tranquebar and Pondicherry. The export of cotton goods has now been destroyed by competition from Manchester, and the entire population thrown backupon the cultivation of the soil as their only means of subsistence. At the same time, it is alleged that the annual rainfall has diminished. owing to the excessive denudation of the inland forests; and it may be doubted whether our Government pays so much attention to minor public works as was done by the old Hindu princes. The catastrophe, which might perhaps have been foreseen, came in the fatal years 1876 to 1878. The expected rainfall, which is usually brought periodically by two distinct monsoons, failed, not only once or twice, but in three successive seasons. With a population that is alike dense and poor and ignorant, the transition from high prices to actual starvation is dangerously rapid. Before our administrators were aware of what had happened, famine in her most terrible forms was already abroad in the land. To alleviate the distress was all that now remained to do. Imports by sea, transport by railway and road, formation of "famine camps," organisation of relief works, were on all sides pressed forward with laudable energy. But the fact remains that the total number of deaths caused directly or indirectly by famine can only be estimated in millions; and in the State of Mysore, which had hitherto been always held out as a model of successful administration, one-quarter of the population has been swept away.

If we compare this famine with the Bengal scarcity of 1874, when the foresight and unparalleled exertions of Government averted a similar disaster on a smaller scale, we shall find that the single word "drought" is not a

far as regards famine, the agricultural condition of India generally is in a state of unstable equilibrium, as also was the agricultural condition of Ireland forty years ago. There is no reasonable doubt that famines, or rather the combinations of circumstances which may result in famine, have become more frequent than in former times. In Madras, famine has worked its own remedy, for a season at least. The extension of irrigation works, and improvement in the means of communication, will both tend to moderate the full force of the calamity. But apart from the vicissitudes of the seasons, which no human skill can meet, the one remedy, as in Ireland, is to be sought for in some modification of the social circumstances of the people, which shall raise them from absolute dependence upon their annual harvest for their daily bread. The great Warren Hastings recommended, and partly carried into execution, a system of colossal granaries, which should be filled when grain was a drug in the market, and only unlocked by Government in time of famine. Such a device, though crude, and exposed to the common objections against a sinking fund, might be effective if it had ever been consistently carried out. Modern political economy would rather suggest that security can only be obtained by so raising the average standard of comfort as to leave a reserve of accumulated wealth in every household. To one who can penetrate beneath the surface, famines are due, not so much to meteorological cycles, as to a permanently low stage of society. But such thoughts as these lie outside the domain of statistics, nor have they any place in Mr. Walford's method of simple enumeration. Jas. S. Cotton.

## THE WAR OF LIBERATION.

Oesterreich und Preussen im Befreiungskriege. Urkundliche Aufschlüsse über die poli-tische Geschichte des Jahres 1813. Von Wilhelm Oncken, 2. Bd. (Berlin: Grote.)

THE first part of this important work has already been noticed in the ACADEMY (January 20, 1877). The second, and for the present concluding, volume is still more comprehensive, and contains matter of not less interest than the first. The author has certainly been far from desiring to present us with an historiographic work of art. The principal feature in this volume, as in the first, is the collection of remarkable documents which the author has found in various archives, and which we are enabled to read either verbatim in the original or in extracts as translations. Prof. Oncken has made especial use of the archives of Hanover and Vienna, as well as those of Berlin and Dresden. A great part of the corre-spondence of that astute diplomatist, Count Hardenberg, who has already played so considerable a part in the highly instructive publication, *Politischer Nachlass des Hanno*ver'schen Staats- und Cabinet- Ministers Ludwig von Ompteda, is preserved at Hanover. At Vienna, thanks to the liberal administration of the eminent director of the archives, Alfred von Arneth, papers of the greatest importance, hitherto rigorously guarded from perusal, have been made accessible. In this

case we have another proof that the State loses nothing when posterity is permitted to obtain the fullest possible acquaintance with the circumstances by which its policy has been influenced. The Austrian policy of the period in question was in the hands of Metternich, and with him the greater part of Prof. Oncken's researches are concerned. In order to perfect these researches, the author has even been permitted to make use of the private archives of Prince Metternich, con-taining the Memoirs of that celebrated Minister, the publication of which is to be commenced this year.

No one can lay down Prof. Oncken's book

without having acquired from it fresh explanations of the policy of the Austrian Minister. and from these explanations the character of Metternich undoubtedly gains not a little. We do not meet in these pages with the frivolous, effeminate Metternich of the popular idea, but a man who pursues his predetermined plans with tenacity and adroitness through long intervals of time, and who bestows great earnestness and labour on the realisation of them. We see him as the envoy of Austria at Berlin, active in the promotion of an alliance between Austria, Prussia, and Russia against France. We find him, as ambassador in Paris, still inspired by the same thought—that the system of Napoleon must be opposed -and full of enthusiasm for the war of 1809. As Minister, he endeavours to deceive Napoleon as to his actual views, in order that he may be able, at the right moment, to step forward in opposition to him. He favours the marriage of the Archduchess Maria Louisa with Napoleon, not, indeed, that he may become the vassal of the Emperor, but to purchase a few years' repose for Austria and to loosen the alliance between Napoleon and Alexander. In March 1812 he concludes the forced league with France against Russia, while stipulating with the Russians, in the deepest secrecy, that the war shall be carried on by the Austrian troops as a mere show. In all these circumstances he displays a craft which fully justifies the opinion of Count Hardenberg :-

"Avec une haute opinion de la supériorité de ses moyens, de sa prudence et de sa finesse, il aime la finasserie dans la politique et l'y croit néces-saire; il ne se croit inférieur en politique à personne, et n'ayant pas assez d'énergie pour faire dans le besoin usage des ressources du pays et pour lutter contre les difficultés qu'il rencontre tant dans l'intérieur que dans la politique extérieure, ayant avec cela une idée exagérée des talents de Bonaparte, et des ressources de la France, il croit pouvoir suppléer au courage d'esprit et à la force par la ruse, et si celle-ci aussi se trouve en défaut, il cède momentanément dans l'espoir qu'une autre ruse le tirera de l'affaire."

Prof. Oncken, in this recapitulation of the earlier policy of Metternich, touches, it is true, upon subjects which scarcely come within the limits of his theme. He has with good reason considered it necessary to go back so far in order to render comprehensible the conduct of Metternich in the year 1813. While showing the intimate connexion between his behaviour in 1813 and the earlier plans of Metternich, he depicts the gradual transition of Austria to the system of armed intervention, and from the system of armed in-

tervention to her accession to the coalition. He demonstrates how many difficulties Metternich had to overcome from his own monarch. gives a critical account of the celebrated conversation between the Austrian Minister and Napoleon in Dresden, and makes us acquainted even with the details of the various compacts which, in the summer of the year 1813, united almost the whole of the rest of Europe against the Emperor. In surveying the entire scene we must acknowledge that much is to be said for the theory that Metternich did not seriously believe in the possibility of establishing a lasting peace through the intervention of Austria,\* and that, from the first, he was prepared to share in the war against France, while it was necessary to lead the Emperor Francis to this resolution step by step. It would, however, be going too far to explain all the delays and evasions of the Austrian policy as due to the regard which the First Minister had to pay to the inclinations of his sovereign. He himself candidly declared that the longer an open declaration against Napoleon was delayed, the higher price Austria would receive for her participation in the struggle. In reading the author's eloquent analysis, we can never forget that with Metternich the matter of first moment was not the salvation of Europe nor the liberation of Germany, but the elevation of Austria, by whom the decisive word was to be spoken at the restoration of peace in Europe. W. von Humboldt estimated the situation very correctly when, so early as the spring of 1813, he gave as his opinion on the policy of Austria-

"Il ne me semble point douteux, que si cette cour diffère de dire qu'elle veut sortir de son attitude actuelle, c'est en grande partie pour se ménager une plus grande influence sur les conditions de la paix, et pour rendre les puissances coalisées plus condescendantes à entrer dans ses vues à cet égard."

In fact, anyone who remembers that Metternich, even in March 1813, had agreed with the Emperor Alexander on the outline of the new order of things in Germany; anyone who has heard of the secret treaty of July 27, 1813, the exact tenor of which has never to this day been revealed,† will acknowledge the opinion of the author on this matter to be

"The twofold power of Austria over Germany and Italy was the great political thought on which Metternich afterwards founded the entire arrangement of the treaties of the Congress of Vienna."

The reader of to-day will only doubt whether this political thought can truly be called "great" after the utter shipwreck it has sustained in Italy as well as in Germany. We feel tempted, moreover, in reading this second part of Prof. Oncken's publication, to draw a parallel between Metternich and Hardenberg, since the author also enters into a

consideration of the representative of the Prussian policy. This parallel will not prove favourable to Hardenberg. Even while we remember how many difficulties this Minister had to contend with, we must acknowledge that his weakness, his want of foresight, his over-pliability, are inexcusable. We know of his previous diplomatic action, particularly from his *Denkwürdigkeiten* (published by Ranke), those remarkable memoranda which Oncken, like several previous critics, corrects in not a few important points. The policy pursued by him in the year 1813 we learn pretty clearly from the documents in the col-lection of which Prof. Oncken has made such good use. On more than one occasion we find the Prussian Chancellor of State overreached by those with whom he was con-cerned, and Prussia considerably injured by his thoughtlessness. He concludes an alliance with Russia without advancing to the utmost the interests of Prussia. He allows the future form of Germany to be settled by Metternich behind his back. One weak point after another may be observed in his transactions with England. The judgment pronounced on Hardenberg by the author in his first volume appeared to many to be too severe; in fact, a criticism on this first part which appeared in Sybel's Historische Zeitschrift endeavoured to defend the Minister on an important occasion by casting a proportionately greater share of blame on his commissioner, Knesebeck. The point in question relates to the history of the treaty of Kalisch, and to the part played by Knesebeck at the Russian headquarters. In returning to this controversy, Prof. Oncken finds himself under the necessity of making some not inconsiderable concessions to his antagonist. On one point of great importance, however, he is proved to be correct. Knesebeck was certainly authorised to redemand that part of the duchy of Warsaw which had belonged to Prussia, with the exception of Bialystock, and an eventual rectification of the Russian frontiers.

The space at our command does not permit us to enter more minutely into this matter. For the same reason, we must content ourselves with pointing out that Prof. Oncken has been enabled to communicate some un-printed letters of Friedrich Gentz which afford a fresh proof of the great disproportion existing between the talents and character of that remarkable man. In the appendix are found a series of the most important documents which the author has made use of. The greater number are from the archives of Vienna, some from those of Dresden, others from the Public Record Office. The representations of the author may best be tested by a reference to these documents. He is frequently in contradiction with the views of others on the same subject, especially with regard to his judgment of the policy of Metternich. He has not been able to fill up all the gaps in our knowledge, although no one could have wished to do so more ardently than himself. He is, however, justly entitled to the credit which he claims in his preface:—

"I am conscious of having honestly sought the truth, and nothing but the truth, without pre-conceived opinions; and as by fair investigation I have found it to be, so have I represented it, without respect to persons or parties, and with

<sup>\*</sup> Comp. p. 325—"Ne regarder l'arrangement que l'on pourrait faire que comme *une trève* dans laquelle on se préparerait encore à de nouveaux efforts."

<sup>†</sup> The contents of this agreement are only known from a note of Metternich's to Castlereagh of May 26, 1814. H. v. Treitschke, in his Geschichte Deutschlands im 19. Jahrhundert, p. 468, has also been able to make use of this note,

all that freedom which I have always regarded, and shall always regard, as the soul of all historical writing."

ALFRED STERN.

#### NEW NOVELS.

My Lady Green Sleeves. By Helen Mather. 3 vols. (Sampson Low & Co.)

My Lords of Stroque. By the Hon. Lewis Wingfield. 3 vols. (R. Bentley & Son.)

Brook and River. By Captain Hay Hill. 3 vols. (Tinsley Bros.)

Great-Heart and his Little Friends, Trixie and Dot. By Cecil Clarke. (S. W. Partridge & Co.)

WHEN it has been admitted that My Lady Green Sleeves is not coarse or prurient, nearly all has been said by these negative phrases to which it is entitled in the way of commendation. Its distinguishing characteristic throughout is incoherence; and whereas it is cast in an autobiographical form, the writer being the young head of a large and impoverished county family, who is intended as a specially strong-willed and masculine character, and who besides becomes a surgeon by calling, he shows himself alternately gushing, maudlin, and violent, as an hysterical female dipsomaniac. The opening scenes, which land us in the middle of a parcel of neglected boys and girls (several of whom, from first to last, are made known only by their nicknames, as the Squiffer, Anak, &c.), reduced to actual want by a swindling vice-stepfather-there is a genealogical puzzle which we can indicate no better than by using this phrase—promise fairly, and have some traces of humour in them; but the vein is not followed up, and the worn-out banalities of sensation are employed instead. In order to provide cover for the plot, the autobiographer leaves out five important years of his own life, and takes up the narrative again only at the point where his conduct during that period has got him into a diffi-culty, the solution of which constitutes the main narrative, and whose chief incidents and situations have been freely conveyed and adapted from George Geith and Lord Lynn's Wife, if there have not been a quite excep-tional imagining of the same ideas independently. There is a portentous show of learning displayed (not, however, extending to the niceties of English grammar), and Plato, Lucian, Rabelais, Confucius, with several other recondite authors, are quoted as familiar friends; while there is not only a great wealth of classical allusions, but even some Sanskrit is dragged in head and shoulders; and we have Prof. Max Müller and Sir George Cox, on the sun and dawn myths, cited at no inconsiderable length for us, à propos of nothing at all. The wonder—borrowed from Goldsmith's Deserted Village—that one small head can carry all which Miss Mather knows, has its edge a little taken off, however, by finding her telling us about the corpus vilum giving us Charolais as the Christian name of her heroine, in calm disregard of the fact that the word (known best as the title of Charles the Bold during his father's life) is a mere geographical term, meaning the district round the town of Charolles, in Sâone-et-Loire; nventing the highly probable title of Lord

Siva for a good-natured young English peer; and finally, calling her second young lady Florizle because, as the learned autobiographer, the same who gives us all the erudite dissertations and references, remarks to her, "named after one of Shakspere's heroines." Miss Mather may write novels, such as they are, but she would be pretty certainly plucked, if she were to go in for the university local examinations for women.

Mr. Wingfield has again essayed, and, as before, with a large measure of success, the difficult feat of an historical novel. There is more of pure history and less of fiction woven into its texture than was the case with his Lady Grizel, and the history itself has been more closely adhered to, as indeed might be gathered from the secondary title of the book, which is, A Chronicle of Ireland from the Convention till the Union. And as he does in fact bring the narrative down to the suppression of Emmett's rising, while beginning with a sketch of the Volunteer movement, it covers a somewhat longer period, from 1782 till 1803. In his former novel he taught us that the social savagery and the political corruption of England which came in with the Hanoverian dynasty were as visible with us only a hundred years ago as they are in the Muscovy of to-day to the eyes of the most ardent Russophobists; albeit England has had the start of Russia by nearly a thousand years of civilising agencies, and without any drawback fairly analogous to the Tatar domination. In the present one he caps his former lesson by showing that the dealings of England with the Irish colony at a still later date (actually within the lifetime of hundreds, and even the memory of a few, who are still among us) are such as to throw into the shade the recent atrocities of Turkey in Bulgaria, which roused this country to fierce indignation only the other day, and which have been so signally chastised. One part of his picture, however, is incomplete. The reader can gather from his story that frightful wrong and suffering were illegally inflicted on the unhappy Roman Catholic population even before the "Reign of Terror," as Mr. Wingfield most truly calls as Mr. Wingfield most truly calls it, which goaded them—as it was meant to do—into the rising of 1798, itself so savagely avenged; but nothing is said as to the normal working of the Penal Code, even when no attempt was made to strain or to supplement its provisions; and it would have been worth while showing that life was well-nigh unbearable even under such a mitigation. He tells us something, too, about those vilest outrages on women which were the chief incentive to rebellion, and about the hideous tortures, such as the pitch-caps fastened on the heads of victims, and then set on fire, and the actual roastings alive, by which the Orange yeomanry showed that Irish Protestants had nothing to learn from the Holy Inquisition. But we think that he scarcely brings into sufficient prominence, for those to whom these facts are wholly new, the truth that they were no mere sporadic outbursts of individual ferocity, but an organised system, carried on with the full knowledge and approval of the dominant party in the State, and with no protest save from those who were accounted more or less disaffected, and not least because of their slackness of zeal in the

cause of Protestant ascendancy. Mr. Wing-field sees clearly that the fatal blot in the successful struggle of Ireland in 1782 for legislative independence was nearly the same as that which made abortive the secession of the Southern States from the American Union in 1861. The aim was in itself just and sound, nay, most desirable in face of the hostile legislation of the British Parliament, but it did not include the establishment of religious equality. Had it succeeded, it would merely have perpetuated the ascendancy of an oligarchy which was at once selfish, profligate, cruel, and corrupt, and of a Senate in which all these bad qualities were concentrated and intensified. The Union, as he confesses, was the only possible remedy for such a state of things, however evil were the means employed to bring it about. But we think he has been led into injustice to the younger Pitt, whom he charges with having purposely begun the Terror in order to disgust the Irish people with their own Parliament. The answer to that theory seems very clear. The sufferers from the Terror were precisely the people who had no political influence, and who were already as disgusted with their rulers as possible. Those who pitied them had very little more, and the really dominant faction went heart and soul with the torturings and massacres, so that Pitt cannot have had the motive assigned him, though the guilt of connivance does lie at his door. The real account of the matter seems to be that the French Revolution had thoroughly frightened the corrupt aristocracy and its hangers on, and, as they thought that if the Royalist party had struck first in France it might have cowed the nation, they renewed in Jacobin fashion, with all the greater guilt because educated men, that policy of Papist extermination which Elizabeth's proconsuls had tried two centuries earlier, being sure that such partial risings as alone were likely could be stamped out with little risk to themselves, as was the fact. But he is right enough in laying at the door of George III.—for whom his con-tempt and aversion are as great as for his grandfather—the failure of every attempt at repeal of the Penal Code, and of the black treachery with which the captive United Irishmen were treated by the Government; only here too he fails to see that the King did but too faithfully reflect the prejudices of the bulk of his English subjects, and could not otherwise have carried his point. The book is written exclusively from the dark side, and there are no such softer sketches as Lady Morgan has given of part of the same period in her most brilliant and least-known novel, The O'Briens and O'Flahertys, nor any such single graphic picture as the Union debate in Lever's Knight of Gwynne, but there are several strong situations vigorously treated. The chief historical characters in the story are John Fitzgibbon, still remembered as "the Bad Lord Clare," Arthur Wolfe Lord Kilwarden, Theobald Wolfe Tone, and Robert Emmett. Of these Clare is the most carefully drawn, and with substantial correctness and real insight; while Major Sirr, the bloodhound of a bad master, is also forcibly sketched. Strangely enough, considering the part played in the story by the United Irish.

men, there is no reference at all to Lord Edward Fitzgerald, who would have most fitly entered into the narrative, though a few traits from his character seem employed for the hero, Terence Crosbie. We have mentioned above Mr. Wingfield's chief mistake; we note now a few minor errors which he can correct with his pen if his book reach the second edition it deserves. Amorey is not the proper spelling of the Norman forename so pronounced. It is no Italian Cupid, but that Amaury which represents an original Amalric = "lord of toil." The title "councillor" means a member of the municipal body below the rank of alderman. It is the word "counsellor" which is used in Ireland to denote barristers. And Ennishowen, which he makes an early Norman conquest, was one of the very last places in Ireland to leave Celtic hands. The O'Doghertys captured it from the Kinel Owen in the fourteenth century, and held it till the forfeiture of Sir Cahir O'Dogherty for rebellion in 1613. When it is borne in mind that the Irish peasant, like his Scottish kinsman, but markedly unlike the English rustic, has for good or ill a most tenacious historical memory, so that even the now distant confiscations of whole provinces under Elizabeth and James I. are keenly remembered as national wrongs, and as having created an alien race of landlords with no just title to the soil—the root-idea of all Irish land troubles—it may easily be conjectured how the comparatively recent events of 1796-1800 are branded ineffaceably on his recollection, and help to make him the irreconcileable that he is. There is every wish to do justice to him now, but that wish is only fifty years old, and the creditor side of the account had been running for six centuries and a-half, so that the Celt does not believe that the balance has been fairly struck as yet. Mr. Wingfield has judiciously appended to his book a list of the authorities he consulted, to which readers would do well in adding the chapters on Ireland in Mr. Lecky's History of England in the Eighteenth Century.

Brook and River-a story whose title is borrowed from Longfellow's familiar lines, and whose heroine is accordingly introduced before her coming out, and conducted safely to the usual goal of society novels-is a first attempt, as may be gathered not only from the absence of any other names of writings, but from the author's own casual acknowledgment in the course of the narrative. It is not a book which reveals a new great author of fiction, but it is, albeit a little crude, clever, quite readable, and with fair promise of better things. Captain Hill has not trusted enough to his own powers of amusing, and has here and there sprinkled a few old stories by way of pepper to season his dish, but he need not have been so cautious, and they would be better away. The author makes a false start early in the book by preparing the reader to find the hero a merely selfish and frivolous character, whereas he is made to act thoroughly well throughout, save for a slight hesitation at one critical moment. The best drawing is the villain of the story, whose career is traced from a school for military cadets till the final from a school for military cadets till the final recoiled in dismay. I will, however, do what grief at which he arrives, and that with so I can to make a definition of it clearer to

much probability that Captain Hill may fairly be supposed to have studied from life, not necessarily that of an individual, but of a class of military black sheep.

It is impossible to give any other praise to Great Heart and his Little Friends beyond that of kindly meaning. As a child's book, or as a book written in childish form for elder readers, it entirely fails of what we may fairly assume to have been the writer's aim. He seems, at starting, to have had some notion of employing fairy machinery, and of making the point of his book the contrast remarked by a pair of young water-nymphs between what they were accustomed to down below and what they saw on a prolonged visit to dry land. Accordingly, the introductory chapter is simply imitative, at an indefinite distance, of Kingsley's Water-Babies. But the whole of this first plan, according to which Trixie and Dot are human-shaped "nymphets," born, in some unaccountable way, of frog parents whom Great-Heart had once rescued from mischievous boys, is dropped immediately, and the two nymphets are thenceforward simply two English little girls of the upper class, on a visit to a rich bachelor friend living near Hyde Park Corner; though a few lines of the closing chapter ineffectually attempt to restore the original machinery. But this is a mere fault of construction, and the faults of execution are graver, chiefly, among others, that the book is entirely unchildlike from end to end, and might have been written by one who never spoke to a child in his life. The shape actually taken by the story is that Great-Heart brings his little guests about to various places, and gives them little sermons on the things he shows them, which are pretty much as follow:— Hyde Park during the season, the outside of Newgate and Christ's Hospital, the General Post Office, Paternoster Row, St. Paul's, Cheapside, the Mansion House, Royal Exchange, Bank of England, and Mincing Lane, the inside of a chop-house and of a theatre, London Bridge Railway Station, Newhaven, the Channel passage, and a few sights of Paris. There is an affectation of concealing the names of all these places, and of describing them in roundabout phrases—though Paris is named once —which is feeble; but a much graver defect is that the subjects chosen to dilate on to the children are often quite unsuitable for their years and understandings, they being still at the age of such toys as a doll and a model ship. The hollowness of the fashionable enjoyments of the London season, and notably of the Drive and Rotten Row; Anonyma in the Park; the ill-behaviour of Cook's tourists, here wittily called the "Rooks" and the disadvantages of the French method of arranging marriages, are among these topics. As to style, we will give two speci-mens, one of Great-Heart's own talk, and the other from the yet more astonishingly didactic, sententious, and generally tall language of the younger child, presumably about ten or eleven years old. The gentleman, being asked what the London season is, replies: 'Unconsciously, darling, you have set out for me quite a problem, from the solution of which many cleverer brains than mine have

you. The season is a period of time fixed upon and decreed by the inexorable law of fashion, in the which as many of those people who can lay claim to admission within its charmed circle agree to meet, to visit, and to feast together in the capital of their kingdom," and so on for nearly twenty lines more; when he might have said, "From Easter till the end of July, spent in London by members of both Houses of Parliament, and by most of the wealthy class, who choose that time for balls and parties." The little girl, asked whether a man, under certain circumstances, ought to look out for work, replies: "I would recommend that imaginary being to try his utmost to obtain employment. But I would suggest a great caution in the selection of it. For this reason: that if, as I imagine, such person would be upright and honourable, with a sensitiveness sharpened by a previous experience of sorrow, any further disappointment in the finding of that work he sought (though it ate into his heart like a cankerworm) had better be bravely borne than the trial of further responsibility or worry in anything that was not truly honest" (!!). We can only echo Mr. Wackford Squeers, merely changing a numeral, "Pretty wicious that, for a child of ten."

RICHARD F. LITTLEDALE.

#### CURRENT THEOLOGY.

The Historical Poetry of the Ancient Hebrews. Translated and critically examined by Michael Heilprin. Vol. I. (New York and London: D. Appleton and Co.) This is an agreeably written and, in the best sense, popular work. It consists of the fragments of Hebrew poetry embedded in the Biblical narratives, arranged chronologically, with historical and critical introductory remarks. There is probably no work in English from which so clear and accurate a view can be gained of the leading results of modern rationalistic criticism. Mr. Heilprin does not seem to be a professed Old Testament scholar, nor does he appear to us to have reached the centre of the critical questions at issue, but the traces of dilettanteism are few and inconspicuous. It is to be regretted that he should incline so strongly to extreme criticism; the warnings which the fall of so many hypotheses has already given should have taught him that neatness and simplicity are not the chief criteria of truth. He is, besides, not always happy in his selection of authorities; Bernstein and Seinecke do not in this quarter of the globe count for great authorities; and to read (p. 52) that Graf shares the doubt of Maspero whether a Mosaic legislation ever existed gives us a shock of surprise, as if we had been told that Niebuhr shared the doubts of Arnold as to the trustworthiness of the history of the Roman Kings. One great merit of the book is the modesty with which the author limits himself to the function of condensing the work of critics, to whose publications he conscientiously gives references. As a specimen of American literature, both outwardly and inwardly, Mr. Heilprin's work deserves a high eulogy, but the contents, valuable as (from a limited point of view) they certainly are, can hardly be said to be worthy of the luxurious and inviting form in which they appear. Truth, says the old proverb, lies at the bottom of a well; to read Mr. Heilprin, one would think that it floated upon the surface.

La Bible au Seizième Siècle. Etude sur les Origines de la Critique biblique. Par Samuel Berger. (Paris : Fischbacher.) An interesting historical sketch which throws great light on the origin of the Reformation as well as of Biblical criticism, and indirectly illustrates a still unsettled question of Protestant theology.

De Glossariis et Compendiis Exegeticis quibusdam medii aevi. Dissertatio critica. By S.
Berger. (Paris: Fischbacher.) One of the
first-fruits of the new Protestant Theological
Faculty of Paris. It embodies a part of
the historical researches necessary for the
composition of the preceding work. Glossaries
and compends were the chief source of the
Biblical knowledge of the Middle Ages. If
anyone is curious as to the origin of the name
of the Carlylian hero, Teufelsdroeckh, he will
find it on the fourth page of this brochure,
which shows great reading, but appeals mainly
to bibliographers.

The Bible for Young People. By Dr. H. Oort and Dr. J. Hooykaas, with the assistance of Dr. A. Kuenen. Vol. VI. Narratives of the New Testament. — II. Authorised Translation. (Williams and Norgate.) This able work is not unknown to readers of the Academy. The present volume is fully equal to its predecessors, and fully as unsuitable for the "young people" for whom it is professedly intended. It contains the conclusion of the evangelical narratives, together with the story of the first propagation of the Gospel (the Book of the Acts fares very badly), and some account of the circumstances of the earlier epistles. The last chapter is headed, "The Disciple whom Jesus Loved," and presents a sketch of the life of Jesus according to the Fourth Gospel. Nothing is more characteristic of the author than the way in which his sketches of the contents of the Scriptures are pervaded by the subtle spirit of negative criticism. In spite of this, the freshness and suggestiveness of the work, and the love of truth which appears everywhere, even in the boldest critical conjectures, will recommend it to the notice of scholarly orthodox theologians. As an old-fashioned Scotch professor has said, "It's the best compensation for heresy to turn a heretic's book to a good purpose." The pages devoted in this work to the Resurrection of Christ certainly require the attention of the learned defenders of orthodoxy. It is the most plausible pupular attempt to explain away the Resurrection with which we are acquainted.

Philo und die Halacha. Eine vergleichende Studie unter steter Berücksichtigung des Jo-sephus. Von Dr. Bernhard Ritter. (Leipzig.) If it be allowable to judge by results, there has been in England hardly any serious student of Philo, since the present master of Balliol College, Oxford, some five-and-twenty years ago, pub lished a well-known essay in his edition of St. Paul's Epistles. In Germany, during the same period, Philo-literature has been at once exuberant and varied. Not to mention more than one or two names, there is the masterly account of his philosophy given by Zeller; the important volume, published by Siegfried in 1875, treating in detail of Philo's principles of exposition, and the influences under which they were formed; and now we have the treatise by Dr. Ritter, which may be regarded in some sense as a supplement to the work last mentioned. Its subject, in a word, is Philo's attitude towards what may be termed generally the civil side of the Mosaic Code. Arranging his materials with great clearness, under the several heads of Criminal Law, the Law of Marriage and Inheritance, Constitutional and Ceremonial Law, Dr. Ritter examines in order the expositions given by Philo of the passages in the Pentateuch belonging to each, comparing them with those current in the Talmud and other Jewish writings, and with the notices in Josephus. Alexandrian Judaism held a course of its own; how far this was shaped by influences from

Palestine is a question full of interest, which, within particular limits, the present volume helps us to answer. While in many instances Alexandrian interpretation and Alexandrian usage are remarkably independent of Palestine, upon other occasions, as in the curious and artificial explanation (p. 30) of the archaic phrase, Ex. xxi. 13, but God have brought him to his hand, the reverse appears to have been the case. Incidentally, also, many other points receive illustration—for example, Philo's relation to the translation of the LXX., and the adaptation sometimes traceable in his exegesis to the Law as observed in Alexandria. References both to the older Jewish authorities and also to the principal German writers are very copious; and those who are desirous of studying an intricate, but important, department of literary history will derive valuable assistance from Dr. Ritter's pages.

#### NOTES AND NEWS.

MESSRS. C. KEGAN PAUL AND Co. have in the press, and will publish early next month, a volume entitled Old Celtic Romances, by P. W. Joyce, LL.D., author of the well-known work on The Origin and History of Irish Names of Places. The book will contain eleven romantic stories translated from the Gaelic by Dr. Joyce. This is the first collection of the old classical Gaelic tales of imagination ever published in fair translation; and the public will now have an opportunity of judging how far they can bear comparison with those of other ancient peoples. Dr. Joyce is the brother of Robert Dwyer Joyce, who has so successfully rendered the martial spirit of Ireland in his ballads and songs.

THE Rev. W. C. Lukis has been for many years preparing a work on Megalithic remains, to be published by the Society of Antiquaries of London. He has made surveys of a large number of these monuments in France, the Channel Islands, and the Netherlands; and during the last three months has taken plans and notes of upwards of eighty cromlechs, cistvaens, circles, pillars, lines, holed stones, &c. in Cornwall and on Dartmoor. In Cornwall he has had the able assistance of W. C. Borlase, Esq., F.S.A. These plans form a most interesting and instructive series, and inasmuch as, in this utilitarian age, such ancient monuments are little respected by stone-breakers, it is satisfactory to know that accurate ground-plans, sections, and elevations have been secured before the work of destruction has been carried further. Several interesting monuments in Brittany have been partly or wholly destroyed since they were measured by Mr. Lukis and Sir Henry Dryden.

WE are glad to hear that Prof. Huxley's long-expected *Introductory Primer* of the Sciences is at last in the press, and will be published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co. in the course of the autumn.

In Golden Threads from an Ancient Loom, which will be published by Messrs. Griffith and Farran during the autumn, Miss Lydia Hands has attempted to bring the main features of the Nibelungenlied before the younger portion of the English public. Mr. Carlyle has accepted the dedication, and the illustrations, which are numerous, are by Julius Schnoor, of Carolsfeld.

THE second volume of Mr. J. P. Earwaker's History of East Cheshire will be ready for delivery in about a month.

THE friends and admirers of Mr. Charles Calvert have arranged for a memorial performance in the Theatre Royal, Manchester, on October 1 and 2, with the double object of testifying their regard for the dead and of aiding those whom he has left behind. The piece selected is As You Like It, and the chief histrionic

interest will doubtless arise from the opportunity of comparing the embodiment of Rosalind by two such capable artists as Mrs. Theodore Martin (Helen Faucit) and Miss Wallis. The male characters will be represented by Messrs. L. Wingfield, Tom Taylor, J. D. Watson, G. Du Maurier, L. Alma Tadema, E. Yates, A. H., Marsh, L. Sambourne, B. Brierley, E. Waugh, and other gentlemen connected with art and literature. It will be seen that several members of the staff of Punch figure in this list, while other names are those of friends who knew and admired Calvert in his palmy days, when Shakspere was placed on the stage of the Prince's Theatre with all that wealth of illustration and artistic archaeology could devise. It will be news to some that Mr. Calvert was an adherent of Swedenborg.

Workman and Soldier: a Tale of Paris Life during the Siege and the Rule of the Commune, is the title of a new book by Mr. James F. Cobb, author of Silent Jim and The Watchers on the Longships. It will be published by Messrs. Griffith and Farran during the winter.

Mrs. Lysaght has just completed a new story, entitled, Jim; or, the Player's Child, which will be published in the Royal Exchange newspaper.

MESSRS. WARD, LOCK AND Co. will publish shortly Jesus Christ: His Life and Work, by the Rev. F. A. Malleson; The Mother's Home Book; How to Excel in Study, by James Mason; Athletics and Training generally: Boxing, Wrestling, &c., edited by Capt. Crawley; works on Dairy Farming and Cattle Rearing, Sheep, Pigs, and other Live Stock, Domestic Poultry, &c.; a series of popular works on Temperance by Dr. J. W. Kirton, and of Penny Tracts for the People; new volumes in "Sylvia's Home Help Series," and Sixpenny Practical Cookery and Economical Recipes.

Messes. Griffith and Farran will shortly publish The Favourite Picture and Nursery Companion, compiled anew by Uncle Charlie, with 450 pictures by celebrated artists. Together with modern specimens of woodengraving, many of the curious pictures of olden days have been given, in the hope that the children who possess this book may be interested to know what the pictures were like which amused their grandfathers and greatgrandfathers when they were taken to buy their gift-books at the old corner of St. Paul's Churchyard, whence this book is issued.

THE Revue Politique et Littéraire states that a considerable number of unpublished MSS. by M. Thiers, containing much curious information with regard to the political affairs in which their author was concerned, have been deposited at the "Banque de Londres."

THE catalogue of Arabic MSS. in the National Library at Paris is about to be printed. It has been prepared by M. Amari, of Rome, and MM. Derenbourg and de Slane.

A LIFE of Elihu Burritt is announced as in course of preparation by Prof. J. N. Carleton, of New Britain, Conn.

THE Publishers' Weekly announces that the "Danbury News Man" has burst the bonds of the paragraph-writer, and has written a novel entitled Mr. Phillips' Goneness, which Messrs. Lee and Shepard have in hand for early publication.

THE borough engineer of Liverpool has presented a report to the Town Council in favour of the adoption of the electric light in preference to gas for the lighting of the new Picton reading-room. It is calculated that the illuminating power of the electric light will be greater than that of gas, while the cost will be less.

M. TOKMAKOF, librarian at Moscow of the

archives connected with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has just completed a series of catalogues which will render the collection of MSS. and printed volumes easily accessible to historical students. The following have been already printed:—viz., (1) Catalogue of MSS. relating to jurisprudence dating from the thirteenth century; (2) Catalogue of medical works dating from 1597-1870; (3) Chronological catalogue of Slavo-Bussian books issued from the ecclesiastical press, 1517-1821. There are also being printed:—(1) Catalogue of MSS. relating to the history of the Government and City of Moscow, their churches and monasteries; (2) Catalogue of MSS. relating to the history of the Church, dating from the fifteenth century; (3) Catalogue of acts and documents illustrating the development of the drama in Russia from the sixteenth century.

WE are informed that the Slovinac, to which we alluded a few weeks since, has now been in existence over a year, having been started in May 1878. Its special object, besides acting as a herald of revived literary activity in Ragusa itself (once named the Slavonic Athens), is to hold a kind of literary balance between the Serbs and Croats, whose mutual antipathies are well known. With that object it is printed partly in Latin and partly in Cyrillian characters. Among the contributors are Count Orsato Pozza (Medo Pucich), the Ragusan poet, the Montenegrin poet Popovich, and the Ragusan professors and littérateurs Bogisich, Zore, and Budmanni, whose Serb translations of Sanskrit dramas in the Slovinac have attracted considerable attention.

PROF. COMPARETTI has published some fragments of a treatise on morals from a papyrus discovered at Herculaneum, which he attributes to Epicurus, and supposes to have formed part of the Περὶ αἰρέσεων καὶ ψυγῶν.

The jury commissioned by the Belgian Minister of the Interior to decide on the comparative merits of the dramatic works in French sent in for the triennial competition of 1876-78, after examining thirty-three pieces, have recommended for the prize M. Louis Claes, author of André Vesale, Mathilde Gilbert, and L'Employé.

THE Netherlandish Literary Congress was opened at Malines on August 25.

M. Henri Delmas de Grammont, President of the Algerian Society, who has been for some years engaged on a collection of Documents inédits pour servir à l'Histoire de l'Algérie, has just published a brochure entitled Histoire du Massacre des Turcs à Marseille en 1620, which is noticed in the Revue Critique. It gives an account of a tumult at Marseille on March 14-16, 1620, on the occasion of the pillage of a French ship and the massacre of its crew by an Algerian corsair. The people rose and massacred forty-eight Algerians who had taken refuge at the Hôtel de Mevoulhon, and among them two ambassadors from the Pacha of Algiers, who had concluded a peace with Louis XIII. on March 21, 1618. The massacre at Marseilles was the signal for a resumption of hostilities, though fourteen of the ringleaders in the outrage were condemned to death by the Parliament of Aix. The popular feeling against the Turks was still characterised by the ferocity of the Crusading era.

An important work is announced from the Clarendon Press, in the form of a new Latin Dictionary, based on Dr. Andrews' well-known edition of Freund's Dictionary, but revised, enlarged, and in great part re-written by Charlton T. Lewis, Ph.D., and Charles Short, LL.D., Professer of Latin in Columbia College, New York, The work, which will be ready in

about a fortnight, has been brought up to the level of modern philological and antiquarian research, and will no doubt be welcomed by all scholars and students.

Mr. W. H. G. KINGSTON has re-written and so largely added to Will Weatherhelm; or, the Yarn of an Old Sailor about his Early Life and Adventures, which has been out of print for the last twenty years, as to make an entirely new book of it, and it will be published during the coming season by Messrs. Griffith and Farran in their six-shilling series of the author's stories.

Messes. Macmillan and Co. will publish in a few weeks a new and thoroughly revised edition of Prof. W. W. Goodwin's Elementary Greek Grammar. The same author's Moods and Tenses of the Greek Verb has already made a name for itself in this country, and is regarded as a high authority, but his grammar is as yet not known here. The present edition has been revised, enlarged, and in a great measure reconstructed, in accordance with the advice of teachers, English and American, and with the author's own maturer judgment. Such a work, from a scholar of recognised eminence in the subject, will no doubt attract attention.

M. J. ALTMEYER, at his death on September 15, 1877, left a large number of MSS., which were sent by the family to the Royal Library at Brussels, and finally acquired by the State for the sum of 12,000 frs. These include (1) a series relating to his great projected work, La Révolution belge et batave au XVI Siècle, of which the first five books, bringing the narrative down to the year 1563, are ready for press; (2) copies of various works of the author's, published and unpublished. Among the latter is a very long lecture on the French Revolution, and a work in which Altmeyer proposed to support Bergenroth's theory with regard to the mother of Charles V., but which, on the explosion of that theory, was suppressed; and (3) his historical courses delivered at the Athenaeum and University of Brussels.

Among illustrated books to be issued shortly by Messrs. Ward, Lock and Co. are The Old Favourite Fairy Tales and new editions of Don Quixote and Robinson Crusoe, of Sabbath Bells chimed by the Poets and of Lever's Charles O'Malley; Guinevere, Vivien, Enid, and Elaine, each with nine illustrations by Gustave Doré.

THE same firm are preparing new editions of Haydn's Domestic Medicine, Haydn's Bible Dictionary, and Whiston's Josephus; and are about to re-issue, in monthly parts, Beeton's Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Universal Information, Cruden's Concordance, Mrs. Beeton's Book of Household Management, &c.

MESSES. GRIFFITH AND FARRAN have in hand the following books for children:—Bunchy; or, the Children of Scarsbrook Farm, by E. C. Phillips, illustrated by A. J. Johnson; Ways and Tricks of Animals, with Stories about Aunt Mary's Pets, by Mary Hooper, author of Little Dinners, Wives and Housewives, &c., with illustrations by Harrison Weir and others; and African Pets; or, Chats about our Animal Friends in Natal, with Sketches of Kaffir Life, by F. Clinton Parry, illustrated by R. H. Moore.

Messrs. Teubner, of Leipzig, announce:—
An edition of the remains of Porphyrius'
Homeric Questions relating to the Iliad, by
H. Schrader; a second edition of W. Christ's
Metrik der Griechen und Römer; Quaestiones
syntacticae de Participiorum usu Tacitino,
Velleiano, Sallustiano, by F. Helm; an edition
of Kleomedes' Κυκλική Θεωρία τῶν Μετεώρων,
by H. Ziegler; Der Naturwissenschaftliche
Unterricht an der höheren Müdchenschule und
sein Einfluss auf die weibliche Erziehung und

Bildung, by Dr. Julius Röll; and Vorschule zur Geometrie, by Dr. Th. Reishaus.

Among Messrs. Ward, Lock and Co.'s forthcoming books for children we notice:—Golden Childhood: the Annual for all Young People; The Sunbeam Picture Book for Christmas, 1879; The Children's Picture Annual, by Mercie Sunshine; The Royal Nursery Picture Book; new volumes of the "Warwick House" and "Aunt Fanny" Series of Toy Books, and of the "Good Aim" Books, &c.

#### NOTES OF TRAVEL.

IT is stated that the exploring party under Mr. Alexander Forrest, which, as was mentioned in the ACADEMY of May 24, is engaged in examining the north-western portion of Western Australia, have met with splendid and well-watered country in their journey to the Roebuck River, and that they had encountered no opposition on the part of the natives.

Last spring the Rev. A. Pearse, a missionary stationed in the Society Islands, paid a visit to the Hervey Group, or Cook's Archipelago, which consists of nine islands of volcanic or coralline origin, lying 700 miles to the southeast of Samoa. Touching at the Island of Atiu, he found that a most disastrous hurricane had swept over it about the same time as that which committed such great destruction in the Tuamotu, or Low Archipelago, some twenty degrees to the eastward. For three days Atiu was exposed to its violence, and cocca-nut trees, bananas, &c., were swept down. After the storm a grub, of a kind previously unknown in the island, destroyed the taro crop, so that the inhabitants were reduced to great straits for food.

THE Free Church of Scotland have received intelligence that the natives in the neighbourhood of Livingstonia and farther north, on the west side of Lake Nyassa, at the sanitarium of Kaningina, are flocking under the protection of the mission stations in large numbers. At the latter place upwards of 2,000 are under the care of the missionaries. The rain-fall this year on the shores of the Lake is reported to be much greater than during the past two years.

THE Church Missionary Society have at length, after a long period of silence, received letters from their Nyanza mission. Col. Gordon's telegram, however, to which we recently alluded, had anticipated the chief items of intelligence. We learn that the Nile party reached Dufflé on December 3. In journeying thence to Mrooli, they followed the Nile to the Albert Nyanza, and then proceeded by land from Magungo.

It may be of interest to state that the Church Missionary Society and the Universities' Mission have come to an arrangement as to the countries to be occupied by them in Eastern Africa, by determining that the River Umba shall be the northern boundary of the territory of the latter, the line to run immediately north of Mbaramu, the most northern town of Usambara; thence it will run southward, dividing Usambara and Uzegura from the Masai country, and leaving the two former regions to the Universities' Mission. Running still south, it will give Usagara (including Nguru and Uruguru) to the Church Missionary Society, and Uzaramo to the others. At about 7° 30' S. lat., the boundary will turn westward as far as Lake Tanganyika.

CAPT. MARTINI started from Zeilah for Shoa on July 6, and six days later his caravan was robbed by some Somali marauders. Recent letters from Shoa state that there is no truth in the rumour of MM. Cecchi and Chiarini being held in captivity anywhere.

Dr. Lenz, who is well known by his explorations in West Africa, chiefly on the River Ogowé, has been entrusted with the charge of an expedition to Morocco by the Berlin branch of the International African Association.

WE regret to learn that one of the plans for rendering assistance to the Swedish Arctic Expedition has been most unhappily frustrated. The Russian steamer A. E. Nordenskiöld arrived at Yokohama on August 1 and started for Behring Strait on August 4, laden with stores for the relief of the Vega. A later telegram, however, states that the vessel has been totally lost at Nemora, but the crew were fortunately saved.

THE last mail from the West Coast of Africa brings somewhat important news respecting the gold mining company at Axim, whose operations were referred to in the ACADEMY of November 16, 1878. It is stated that after many years of waiting a valuable vein of gold has at length been discovered and is being actively worked.

OFFICIAL news has been received at Lisbon to the effect that on July 24 Messrs. Ivens and Capello were in the district called Duque de Braganza.

THE September number of Kensington-a welledited and readable little monthly magazinecontains an interesting article by Prof. A. Leith Adams, entitled, "Wanderings in Tartarland," in which not the least interesting point is the writer's strong recommendation of an old-established favourite :-

"Among the numerous incentives of the study of natural science, written or pictorial, few surpass in accuracy and interest the exquisite woodcuts and vignettes of Bewick's British Birds. The teachings vignettes of Bewick's British Birds. The teachings of the Newcastle wood-engraver formed the alphabet of my first lessons in natural history, lessons to be afterwards repeated under the cloudless summer skies and wilderness wastes of Central Asia, and thus contributed not a little to foster in me a zeal for the study of natural history. Let the reader, thus contributed not a little to loster in me a zeal for the study of natural history. Let the reader, therefore, pardon me if I take this opportunity to commend to all youthful ornithologists the study of this inestimable, if somewhat old-fashioned book, as one of the best preparations for practical work in the field.

THE secretary of the French Société de Géographie, who bears the English name of M. James Jackson, has just issued the list of members for the past year. The number, including corresponding members, now amounts to 1,700, as compared with only 303 in 1863. Of the total, 1,092 live in Paris; 160 belong to the army, and 139 to the naval service; 193 are life members.

## MAGAZINES AND REVIEWS.

MR. FROUDE has a pleasant paper in the turrent number of Fraser on "Cheneys and the House of Russell." It is the result of a recent brief visit to the quaint little Bedfordshire hamlet, partly for the purpose of trout-fishing and partly in order to examine the monuments in the Russell Chapel in Cheneys Church. The descriptions of his experience, both as "Piscator" and "Old Mortality," are in his best and happiest vein, and the historic-genealogical narrative of the House of Russell, brief as it is, is one of permanent interest. If Mr. Froude always wrote like this, there would be even fewer critics to carp at either the manner or matter of his productions. It is gratifying to a somewhat decried class of students to find at least one modern historian taking a "new departure," and frankly recognising the fact that the true history of a nation is to be found in the histories of the individuals by whom it is composed. With one of Mr. Froude's conclusions it is not quite easy to agree, and allowance must be made for the author's natural partiality for his immediate subject. Surely he has never visited the Spencer Chapel in the old church of Brington, Northants, or

he would not class the Russell monuments at Cheneys as second only to those of the Mendozas in the Cathedral of Burgos.

THE Nineteenth Century for September does not bear out a common notion that the magazines for this month are chiefly receptacles for matter difficult to refuse or get rid of. M. About's lively article on "Clerical Education in France" is rather too political in subject to be treated here. Mr. Romanes on "Recreation" treated here. Mr. Romanes on "Recreation" is edifying, but perhaps not very novel. But Mr. Mallock's "Dialogue on Human Happiness," Mr. Spedding's notice of "Charles Tennyson Turner," and Mr. Froude's "A Cagliostro of the Second Century," would make any magazine readable even by the most determined abjurer of politics. Mr. Mallock's admirers will not, it is probable, discern any falling off in this "Dialogue." There is the usual affectation of what the Americans call falling off in this "Dialogue." There is the usual affectation of what the Americans call "society manners," and the usual melancholy proffer of something which is not philosophy or religion or art, but a sort of amalgam of the three. If any proud and haughty scorner feels inclined to laugh at Mr. Mallock's spiritual dyspeptics, we have nothing to say to that. Mr. Spedding's article is interesting, but contains some oddities. Mr. Spedding is very angry with the criticism on the late Charles Turner, that his sonnets are "incorrect in form," and that he was "lacking in the sense of style." He thinks this can only mean that the sonnets do not "follow the order prescribed either by the Miltonic or the Shaksperian sonnet." Does Mr. Spedding imagine that Milton and Shakspere invented the sonnet? We should have supposed that in adopting a decidedly artificial system of verse it might be thought not altogether superfluous to follow its form exactly. A quatorzain of any arrange-ment may be an admirable poem, no doubt; that no one denies. But Gautier's remark, "Write sonnets properly, or don't write them at all," remains applicable. As for Mr. Spedding's judgment of his old friend and contemporary at Cambridge, it is rather favourable than exaggerated. But his ear and eye are evidently insensible to a certain limpness which pervades Charles Turner's work, and which the critic to whom Mr. Spedding objects evidently intended to designate by his charge of "lacking the sense of style." Mr. Froude's "Second Century Cagliostro"is, as all readers of Lucian will know, Alexander the Paphlagonian; and a very amusing article Mr. Froude has made of him, though we cannot say that it is as amusing as the original essay. The peculiar amusing as the original essay. The peculiar grave irony of Lucian's style is hardly more suitable in any of his writings than in the 'Aλεεανδοος η ψευδόμαντις. However, not 'Αλέξανδρος η ψευδόμαντις. However, not everybody can read Lucian, and as a matter of fact very few people do, so that Mr. Froude has not lost his labour in retailing the legend. If his version sends anybody to the original so much the better.

THE article in the Contemporary Review by M. N. Kasasis, on "Political and Intellectual Life in Greece," fails to satisfy the promise of its title. Instead of a sketch of domestic politics, which might be made no less interesting than valuable, we are treated to empty rhodomontade about the dangers of Panslavonianism, the nonexistence of the Albanian nationality, and the ill-treatment which Greece has received from the Western Powers. The portion dealing with intellectual life does not wander so far away from its subject, but it is equally characterised by timid language and vague generalities of statement. Athens is still the intellectual eye of the Eastern Mediterranean. Its universities and its numerous learned bodies supply instruction to, and draw subscriptions from, not only Greece proper, but also the islands and the mainland of Thrace, Asia Minor, and Albania.

M. Kasasis adds little to our knowledge of these facts. He tells us that the Parnassus Society "some time ago" assembled a sort of literary congress "at Athens, that Jerusalem of the dispersed people." But he is "unable at this moment to say what were the results," though his "hones" as which as there is "defined in the state of the state his "hopes" are as high as they are indefinite. Concerning researches in archaeology, where native Greeks have recently done some good work, M. Kasasis is altogether silent.

#### OBITUARY.

SIR ROWLAND HILL, K.C.B.

THE energies of Sir John Lefevre, whose life was described in the ACADEMY of last week, were employed in official duties which excited but little public attention, and when he passed away his name was unknown to any considerable section of his countrymen. The career of Sir Rowland Hill was spent in the full glare of official criticism and popular favour, and his death on the morning of the 27th ult., at Bertram House, Hampstead Green, the house which a nation's gratitude had secured for his own, was mourned as marking the loss of a

public benefactor.

If family tradition be accepted as correct, Sir Rowland was descended from two Englishmen of the greatest eminence in two different spheres. His paternal grandmother claimed some connexion with John Hampden, and her husband is believed to have been related to the author of *Hudibras*; and certainly more than one member of the Hill family has shown the earnestness of conviction and steadfastness of earnestness of conviction and steadlastness of purpose of the Parliamentary patriot. Mr. Thomas Wright Hill, the father of Rowland Hill, was the proprietor of the well-known Hazelwood School, near Birmingham. His religious principles induced him to join the select body of distinguished men worshipping in Dr. Principle's obeyed and he was one of the in Dr. Priestley's chapel, and he was one of the faithful friends who, when the mob of Birmingham was bent on sacking the house of the unpopular Unitarian minister, were chagrined at his refusal to accept their protection. It is characteristic of the untiring energy of Mr. Hill that in his last illness, on the day before his death, he listened with unabated interest to Sir Rowland's narrative of the latest improvements in the working of the Post Office. Row-land was his third son, and was born on December 3, 1795, at Kidderminster, in a room on the first floor of his father's house, which the curious in those matters will find described in The Remains of the Late T. W. Hill (1859), written and printed by Mr. Matthew Davenport fill for the gratification of his friends. The name of Rowland was given to the future "author of penny postage" on account of his grandmother's exalted opinion of the talents of Rowland Hill, the preacher. Much of the early education of the children of Mr. T. W. Hill was conveyed to them by their father in the long and frequent walks in the neighbourhood of Wolverhampton. At the early age of twelve Rowland Hill became an assistant, with his eldest brother, in their father's school; but in spite of their efforts the school was not financially successful until after the lapse of many years. It was removed to Hazelwood in 1819, and continued there until 1833. Six years earlier, a branch was opened under the care of Mr. Rowland Hill and his younger brothers, at Bruce Castle, in Tottenham, an historic building familiar to many by an engraving in Hone's Year-Book. Most of the new principles adopted in the government of the schools were developed by Rowland Hill; the system of teaching was made known to the world in an anonymous volume entitled Public Education (1822), was written by Mr. M. D. Hill and published by Charles Knight. A second edition of this work, with additions by Rowland and Arthur Hill,

appeared in 1827. It was translated into Swedish by Count Frölich, and reviewed by Dr. Southwood Smith in the Westminster Review, It was translated into Southwood Smith in the Westminster Review, by De Quincey in the London Magazine, and by Captain Basil Hall (as it is believed) in the Edinburgh Review. Rowland Hill finished school teaching about 1830, and took an active part in promoting Gibbon Wakefield's scheme for colonising South Australia, holding the post of covertage to the association. of secretary to the association from 1832-36. It was founded on three novel principles; it It was founded on three novel principles; it was to cost the mother country nothing, there was not to be a State Church in the colony, and convicts were not to be transported thither. In 1832 he published a pamphlet on *Home Colonies*, describing the principles and objects of the association. When the Irish famine was at its worst he reprinted a part of it, under the title of *Home Colonies for Ireland*, proposing that societies should be formed in every village for furnishing poor families with small plots of cround and for organising a system of charitable ground, and for organising a system of charitable relief for the deserving poor alone. It was in 1835 that he first conceived the idea of reducing the rate of postage, and in 1837 that he published his celebrated pamphlet on Post Office Reforms, which was chiefly instrumental in preparing the popular mind for the mental in preparing the popular mind for the adoption of the new system. Penny postage came into existence on January 10, 1840. At that time there were but 3,000 post-offices for 11,000 parishes. A letter sent from London to Edinburgh cost 1s. 1\frac{1}{2}d., and if it contained an enclosure the price was doubled; and under the iniquitous system of allowing peers and members of the House of Commons to "frank" letters wholesale, the chief cost of the Post Office fell on the middle class and the poor. In 1838, seventy-six millions of letters passed through the post; when Sir Rowland Hill ceased from his official labours in 1864, the number had risen to 642 millions, and last year the letters and newspapers posted in England amounted to 1,478 millions. Under the influence of the adverse opinion of official circles, Rowland Hill had met with much opposition in the furtherance of his plans from even the friendly Ministry of Lord Melbourne, and in the year after Sir Robert Peel's return to office he was dismissed from his post. The conduct of the Government was keenly resented by the public, and a general subscription to ward his labours realised the handsome sum of £13,000. On the return to power in 1846 of the Whig Ministry, he received a permanent appointment in the Post Office. In 1860 he was made a K.C.B., and when Sir Rowland Hill retired from public life in 1864, the Treasury issued a minute, fully acknowledging the success of his plans, and awarding to him his full salary of £2,000 a year, while Parliament bestowed on him the substantial grant of £20,000. Sir Rowland Hill died full of years and honours. The University of Oxford, to the great gratification of his family, on June 8, 1864, conferred on him the honorary degree of D.C.L.; and only a few weeks ago he received at his own house a deputation from the Council of the City of London bearing the freedom of the City. During Sir Rowland's enforced withdrawal from public life in the years 1843-1846, he was connected with the management of the Brighton Railway, and it was mainly through his influence as chairman of the board that express trains and Sunday excursions were introduced.
W. P. COURTNEY.

THE death is announced, at the age of seventy-four, of Mr. Thomas Longman, the last of the original partners in the firm of publishers of Paternoster Row, which took place at his seat at Farnborough Hill, Hants, on Saturday, the 30th ult. Mr. Longman was the eldest son of the late Mr. Thomas Norton Longman, of Hampstead. He was for many

years an active partner in the great house in the "Row," but in 1859 purchased the property at Farnborough Hill, from which period he took a less active part in the business.

BERNADINO ZENDRINI, who translated Heine's Buch der Lieder so admirably into Italian, has died recently at Palermo. He was born at Bergamo, where his father was a physician. In his thirteenth year he went to Switzer-land for his education, studied philology at the University of Zürich, and soon after his return to his native land received a professorship at Padua. He was afterwards called to the Chair of Comparative Philology at the University of Palermo.

COMMENDATORE ISIDORO LA LUMIN died at Palermo on the 28th ult. He was Superintendent of the State Archives, and the author of many historical publications, among which was one on the subject of the rule of the House of Sayoy in Sicily.

#### SELECTED BOOKS.

#### General Literature.

Bentzon, Th. Récits de tous les Pays. Paris: Calmann Lévy. 3 fr. 50 c. GAPPARKI, P. Les Colonies françaises, Paris: Germer Baillère. 5 fr. WORMS, E. Exposé élémentaire de l'Economie politique à l'Usage des Ecoles, Paris: Marescq. 6 fr.

## Theology.

FORRSTER, Th. Der Altkatholicismus. Eine geschichtl. Studie. Gotha: Perthes. 2 M. 40 Pf.

### History.

BLOCQUEVILLE, Mdme. de. Le Maréchal Davout, Prince d'Eckmühl. II, Années de commandement. Paris: Didier.

d'Eckmühl. II, Années de commande de la fr. 50 c.

Correspondance de Philippe II. sur les Affaires des Pays-Bas, publiée par M. Gachard. T. 5. Bruxelles: Muquardt. 18 fr.

Les Amis de Dieu au quatorzième Siècle. Paris:

18 fr.
JUNDT, A. Les Amis de Dieu au quatorzième Siècle. Paris:
Fischbacher. 12 fr.
KRAUVE, C. Helius Eobanus Hessus, sein Leben u. seine
Werke. 2. Bd. Gotha: Perches. 5 M.
REUSS, R. Strassburg im 30jührigen Kriege (1618—1648).
Strassburg: Teuttel & Würtz. 1 M. 90 Pf.

## Physical Science.

Association française pour l'Avancement des Sciences, Compte rendu de la 7º Session. Paris: 76 Rue de Rennes, 25 fr. 25 fr. Sprecht, F. A. K. v. Das Festland Asien-Europa u. seine Völkerstämme. Berlin: Luckhardt. 6 M.

## Philology, &c.

Philology, &c.

Brenker, O. Angelsächsische Sprachprober m. Glossar.
München: Kaiser. 1 M. 80 Pf.
Kikin, A. De adjectivi assimulati apud Ciceronem usu.
Breslau: Kochner. 1 M.
Martus, F. Quaestiones Plautinae. Berlin: Mayer &
Müller. 1 M.
Martus sur la Notion de l'Esprit hébrsique, par A. Sabatier.
L'Ange d'Assarté, par Ph. Berger. Paris: Fischbacher. 4 fr.
Otte, H. De fabula Cedipodea apud Sophoclem. Berlin:
Mayer & Müller. 1 M. 20 Pf.
Pratsch, W. Die arabischen Handschriften der herzogl.
Bibliothek zu Gotha, 2. Bd. 1. Hft. Gotha: Perthes.
8 M.

8 M.
Pyronden, H. v. d. De dialecto Thessalica commentatio.
München: Kaiser. 1 M.
Virnel, A. Die Wiederauffindung v. Cicero's Briefen durch
Petrarca, Königsberg-i-Pr.: Hartung. 1 M.
Welzel, P. De Jove et Pane dis arcadiis. Breslau: Koebner.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## THE MEANING OF "GORJER."

Trieste: Aug. 26, 1879.

Kindly permit me to add my mite to "The Meaning of Gorjer," or rather "Gorgio." The letter No. 2 (the ACADEMY, August 16) hits the origin of the word. It is simply Kachho (Hind. Kachhá = raw) as opposed to Pakko or Pakká = ripe, Hindús and Hindús call Europeans Jangli (= Jungle men) and Kachháadmi would express the same idea—a raw rough fellow. Once it seemed to me that the derivation might be Gadho (Hind. Gadha = a donkey). Compare the Gr. Gadjo and Gaidaros, which would be pronounced Ghaitharos. I do not think much of the Trebizond theory. The

Gypsy immigration into Greece during the tenth and eleventh centuries was far too extensive to pass by one line of road.

RICHARD F. BURTON.

## MORE PAPYRI FROM THE FAYYUM.

Cairo : Aug. 19, 1879.

A few months ago my friend Prof. H. Brugsch-Bey obtained from the Fayyûm a number of papyri in Greek, Pahlavi, and Arabic. I saw them in his possession, and he kindly promised me permission to transcribe and translate any that interested me, but desired first to mount them on cardboard to prevent deterioration. For this purpose he placed them in the hands of a bookbinder living in the Mûsky, but, unfortunately, and to our infinite regret, a fire occurred in that part of Cairo, and all these invaluable MSS. were destroyed, with the exception of a few scraps that the professor had not sent to be mounted.

One of these, in very neat characters, is the heading of an official order from a Minister of Finance in Egypt between A D. 775 and 785, or A.H. 158 and 169.

"In the name of God the all-merciful, the allcompassionate.

"This is the order of Musa, son of . . . Agent of Al-Mahdy, Commander of the Faithful (may his life be prolonged), for the taxes of Egypt and

Another is more perfect, but from the entire absence of discritical points it is not possible to be sure of the reading of certain words, which might be pointed in several different ways. In the translation I insert notes of interrogation after these doubtful words.

"In the name of God the all-merciful, the all-

compassionate,
"To Khalid son of Yezid, from Sawadah son of "To Khalid son of Yezid, from Sawadah son of al-Harith, peace be upon you. I praise to you God besides whom there is no other God. After compliments, may God give you health. I have been to the village [?] and I found that there had gone out to them five Nabathaeans, people of Damôsah and merchants, and they turned out their five Nabathaeans. But the merchants [?] about whom 

Within the last few days I have obtained yet another parcel of papyri from the same district, among which are, I believe, some still further novelties. They consist of letters in Greek novelties. They consist of letters in Greek (several of them quite intact) and Cufic, with fragments in those languages, and in Pahlavi, Hebrew, and Samaritan, and a remarkable drawing of a sort of dragon painted green and confronting a man carrying a red shield, but

I believe that Hebrew and Samaritan on papyri are as novel as was the Pahlavi character on that material when I first wrote to you on the

subject about two years ago.
One Arabic letter, of which I have only the last few lines, is dated Saturday, the fifth night of the month of Jamadi-al-Akherah of the year 196.

Among the fragments of epistles are several which have the original seals still attached. These letters were folded closely in repeated folds of about three-quarters of an inch wide from the top to the bottom, and then bound with a thong of papyrus which passed through one or more of the lower folds on which there was no writing, and then tied in a knot, on which was placed a small lump of wax or other impressionable material, which was then stamped with the writer's seal. I have one scrap in Arabic on which this form of fastening and sealing is perfectly preserved, the seal bearing the name of 'Aly-ibn-Husein distinctly legible in neatly engraved Cufic characters. Another, in Greek, is fastened in the same way and with an exactly similar material, but the impression is imperfectly preserved, and seems to be that of a bust or part of a human figure.

E. T. ROGERS.

#### SCIENCE.

An Icelandic Prose Reader. By Dr. Gudbrand Vigfússon and F. York Powell, M.A. (Oxford: Clarendon Press.)

Now that the importance of Icelandic is beginning to be generally recognised, a work like the present, giving both a selection of texts and the notes, grammar, and glossary required for their elucidation, has for some time been a great desideratum. It is also a sign of the times that it should form part of the Clarendon Press series, and it is to be hoped that some day our university authorities may become conscious of the anomaly of publishing an Icelandic Reader and yet doing nothing to forward the study of Icelandic among their own students. The subject is fully re-cognised at most of the German universities, and, in the Scandinavian countries, Icelandic is put on a footing of perfect equality with Greek and Latin. And yet we are scarcely less Norse in blood than they are, while we have certainly preserved the old Scandinavian spirit more faithfully than either Danes or Swedes, especially if we compare the upper classes in the three countries. The profound influence exercised by the Norse settlers on English character and institutions is unmistakeably reflected in the language as well, and the interesting list of Scandinavian loanwords in English given by Dr. Vigfússon (p. 558) might easily be trebled without going beyond the literary language.

The present work consists entirely of prose selections, poetry having been wisely excluded. The later artificial Scaldic poetry offers the greatest difficulties even to the most advanced student, and the few Eddaic poems which have any literary value ought not to be approached till the language of the sagas has been thoroughly mastered. Icelandic is, indeed, emphatically a prose literature. More than this, it is the greatest prose literature that the world has yet produced. No verse epic can approach its masterpiece, the Njala, for perfection of structure, vividness of presentment, psychological characterisation, and general force and simplicity. The bulk of the literature is so great that it would be hopeless to attempt to give extracts from all the sagas in an ordinary reading-book. The general principle should be to avoid a number of short extracts, but to give a tolerably long specimen of each of the main types, selecting, as far as possible, those which are complete in themselveseither short narratives or else episodes. Dr. Vigfússon's longest extract is from the Laxdæla-" the most romantic of the sagas," as he calls it—of which he gives the whole last third. Next in length is the extract from Olaf's Saga Tryggvasonar, and then Erik's Saga Rauda, giving the account of the discovery of America. Eigla and Njala are allowed only three pages each, these extracts, as well as most of those from about twenty other sagas, being too short to excite the reader's interest, or to give him any idea of the

style and character of the works from which they are taken. In the case of the Njala, Dr. Vigfússon has made the mistake of selecting one of the critical incidents of the sagathat in which the banished Gunnar's horse stumbles, and he turns back—which loses nearly all its power and beauty when detached from the context. The extract begins quite abruptly with a mass of legal technicalities: "þá mælti Niall: 'Nú man eigi mega sitjanda hlut í eiga, göngum nú þar til sem búarnir sitja';" and the reader is confronted with a number of names of people he knows nothing about : thus he is told what Rannveig says, but without a hint of her being Gunnar's mother. Why not have taken some such half-episodic narrative as that of the adventures of Nial's sons in the Orkneys and their meeting with Kari? In the same way it would have been well to have given the mythical account of the battle of Brunanburg from the Egilssaga rather than the loss of Egil's sons, which Dr. Vigfússon has chosen. The former passage is not only of special interest to English readers, but it also brings out clearly the weak side of the sagamen-namely, their utter disregard of truth when they have a chance of magnifying the exploits of Ice-landers abroad. We are, however, brought on English ground by the interesting extract from the Grettis Saga, in which the wrestling of Grettir and the monster Glam is described, which is, as Dr. Vigfússon has shown, borrowed from Beowulf and Grendel. According to him, the sagaman rises as far above the author of Beowulf "in every subtle quality which makes a work immortal as Shakspere rises above," &c. I believe every impartial critic will agree with me in thinking that Dr. Vigfússon's national sympathies have here led him strangely astray. The tussle between Grettir and Glam, which ends in the tearing-off of a coat-sleeve, is surely a very feeble-one might almost say ludicrous -reminiscence of the tearing-off of Grendel's arm; and the passage in which Grettir is frightened at the horrible rolling of Glam's eyes is as evidently (though Dr. Vigfússon has failed to note it) a reminiscence of Thor and the serpent. While Grettir is swooning, the monster, instead of finishing him off at once, delivers a long speech, after which Grettir mysteriously regains his strength and chops off his interlocutor's head without any ceremony.

The specimens of MS. spellings might as well have been omitted in an elementary book, as also the Runic texts and the specimens of Old Swedish and Danish. collection of proverbs taken from the sagas is, on the other hand, extremely welcome, and will be of great service to the student. I do not see on what grounds Dr. Vigfússon justifies the large space given to the extracts from the sixtcenth-century Bible. He gives the whole of Matthew, together with other pieces, which, with the notes, take up about eighty pages—one-fourth of the whole space given to the texts. Ten pages, by way of curiosity, would have been quite enough. One can hardly imagine a worse preparation for the sagas than the barbarous language of the Icelandic Bible, swarming with Germanisms, some of which are strange even to the spoken language of the present day. Of course, from

a modern point of view the case is reversed, and the language of his Bible appears as venerable to an Icelander as that of the Vulgate does to an Italian. But Dr. Vig-fússon does not profess to teach modern Icelandic. It is certainly advisable to give Biblical specimens, but they might easily have been gathered from the Homily-books and other sources in their classical, or rather, praeclassical, form.

The notes are very full, and admirable in many respects. In them Dr. Vigfússon's unrivalled antiquarian and historical knowledge, and his sympathetic insight into the life and spirit of old Iceland, show to full advantage. The account of the curious division of the day by the points of the compass (p. 339), and of the old Icelandic Hall (pp. 357, 370), with the accompanying sketches, will serve as illustrations. The only fault to be found with these notes is that they often translate difficult passages in too wholesale a way, without proper grammatical analysis.

In criticising the grammar and dictionary, we come to the purely linguistic side of the work. Here we must begin with a general protest against Dr. Vigfússon's tendency to depreciate linguistic accuracy. In his pre-face he warns the student not to trouble himself with grammatical details, and tells him that the inflections are of subordinate importance, and should be "allowed to grow bit by bit on the mind as they occur in the reading." The fact is that Dr. Vigfússon, never having had to learn Icelandic as a foreign language, really has no idea of the difficulties of the process. There is only one way of learning foreign languages through books, and that is by learning paradigms by heart and concentrating one's attention at first entirely on the inflections and particles. English students, especially, have the greatest difficulty in practically mastering a complicated system of inflections like the Icelandic. and, if they once get into the habit of ig-noring their distinctions, they may by long reading acquire the power of guessing at the general sense of the context, but they will always be liable to fall into gross errors. It is to be feared that a good deal of the English knowledge of Icelandic is of this kind, and it is much to be regretted that Dr. Vigfússon should have lent the authority of his name to support dabbling superficiality and charlatanism.

Another general question is that of orthography. The conventional normalised spelling of Icelandic texts is mainly based on the modern language, and often entirely misrepresents the classical stage. There has, accordingly, of late years been a tendency to reform its most glaring defects, and it will be found that many recent editions have, for instance, abandoned the misleading  $\ddot{o}$  in mönnum, hönd, &c., and restored the original tailed o (representing the open o of English not), also distinguishing between this vowel and that of göra, whose  $\ddot{o}$  represents the genuine old sound preserved also in Swedish and Danish. Dr. Vigfússon's orthography does not adopt these and other necessary reforms.

The grammar is the only one of its kind in English, and will be of great value, Its chief

defect is that it does not appear to be worked up directly from the texts given in the Reader. Thus, the verbs are given in alphabetical order, instead of being grouped into natural classes, and the first four of them do not occur at all in the texts given; at least, I do not find them in the glossary. A grammar to a Reader ought to explain fully all the forms that occur in it, and not to burden the student's memory with those which he will not require in his first reading. The introduction of modern forms, such as hellir, gen. hellirs, which are both useless and confusing, is also an objectionable feature of the grammar. If this useless ballast had been rejected, the section on syntax might have been enlarged with the greatest advantage. It is characteristic of the author's want of method that he does not mention the important use of the dative (instrumental) in kasta spjóti, &c. It is also difficult to see how the student, without a thorough grounding in syntax, can follow out the directions in the preface, namely, to observe carefully "the beauties of style and diction peculiar to the saga," especially if he at the same time is inspired with that proper contempt for "the ungrateful study of dry forms" which Dr. Vigfússon seems to consider the mark of a noble mind. I cannot see that an intelligent study of grammatical forms is any dryer than those chronological investigations in which Dr. Vigfússon himself delights, or that any subject can be honestly pursued without a great deal of drudgery, whether it be philology or literature, music or mechanics. Many people think that the dreariest of all drudgeries is the pursuit of what is called " pleasure."

A really serious defect of the book is the badness of the glossary, which so fatally impairs the utility of the Reader that I feel bound to say that I do not think a beginner will be able to read through the texts without external help. The glossary consists of a list of words arranged in triple columns with nothing but the bare English renderings, no references, no hint of constructions, &c. Under braut (preterite) the reader is laconically informed "from brjóta," but he will not find brjóta in the glossary, and has to turn to the alphabetical list of verbs already mentioned. Many words are to be found translated only in the notes, and there often without any information as to their gender, inflection, &c., while others are to be found neither in the notes nor the glossary. The irregular forms are noted with extreme carelessness. Thus 205, 3, in a single line neither flegnir, bornir, nor sodit are to be found in the glossary; how is the beginner to find out that they come from flá, bera, sjóða, respectively? Turning to the Proverbs (p. 259); in the first line I cannot find afglapa, in the fourth androsa, in the last obilgjarnan and ofstopamennina explained either in the glossary or anywhere else; indeed, so numerous are the omissions here that I cannot but hazard the conjecture that these pages have not been indexed at all! On the first page I do not find baglar (l. 15), on 223, 20 hrapallega, 209, 11 vala explained in the glossary. As regards meanings, I find fylgja (203, 14) in the common meaning of "escort, accompany," but the glossary gives only "follow," where also by some oversight ageti is translated "blessings," which makes

nonsense of the proverb hefir hverr til sins ágætis nökkut (259, 2); nor will the rendering of frami by "advancement" enable the reader to make sense of the phrase unnit til frama (204, 9). These examples are not the result of exhaustive sifting, but simply of turning to different pages at random. I, after my own experience of the same kind of work, would be the last to lay stress on even serious errors of detail in a first edition, but such cases as these point to fundamental defects of method and execution. The constant references made to the large Oxford dictionary can hardly be meant seriously; the high price and bulk of that work put it quite beyond the reach of ordinary students. No language requires full special vocabularies more than Icelandic does, owing to the number of idioms and shades of meaning expressed by the same verb in combination with various adverbs, which utterly bewilder the beginner when he has to find the key to an obscure construction by wading through, perhaps, two or three quarto pages. If this work reaches a second edition, Dr. Vigfásson will have to make up his mind to devote at least a year's unremitting labour to re-writing the glossary, and revising the whole work thoroughly.

I have not been able to do justice to Mr. Powell's share in the book, as there is no indication of how the division of labour was effected, and Dr. Vigfússon seems always to speak of himself as "the editor."

I will sum up by saying that the Reader requires a thorough revision before it can be considered to supply satisfactorily the want of a text-book for beginners, but that it is a very valuable and interesting work for more advanced students, who will find in it many texts not easily accessible elsewhere.

HENRY SWEET.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION AT SHEFFIELD.

THE forty-ninth meeting of the British Association has been held at the busy West Riding town of Sheffield during the week from Wednesday, August 29, to Wednesday, August 27. The President for the year is Dr. G. J. Allman, for many years Professor of Natural History at Edinburgh, and now President of the Linnean Society of London, who delivered an inaugural address devoted to the consideration of the nature and phenomena of living matter, especially of the lowest organisms, to the study of which, in the animal kingdom, he has so long and successfully devoted himself. The address and successfully devoted himself. The address comprised two portions, the first consisting of an able summary of the many important researches of recent years upon the phenomena exhibited by protoplasm in the simplest organisms and in the cells of animals and plants. The valuable observations of Haeckel and of Strasburger were especially dwelt upon, and the older ones of C. Bernard on the action of the older ones of C. Bernard on the action of anaesthetics on vegetation. Prof. Allman also expressed an unshaken belief in bathybius, abandoned by its creator, and doubted the vegetable nature of the myxomycetes. As a result of his summary he maintained the essential unity, structural and physiological, of living beings, animal and vegetable, which must all necessarily possess protoplasm endowed with irritability. But

"to suppose that all protoplasm is identical where no difference cognisable by any means at our dis-posal can be detected would be an error. Of two particles of protoplasm, between which we may defy all the power of the microscope, all the

resources of the laboratory, to detect a difference, one can develop only to a jelly-fish, the other only one can develop only to a jelly-lish, the other only to a man. . . In the molecular condition of protoplasm there is probably as much complexity as in the disposition of organs in the most highly differentiated organisms; and between two masses of protoplasm indistinguishable from one another there may be as much molecular difference as there is between the force and is between the form and arrangement of organs in the most widely-separated animals or plants."

Life is, then, a property of protoplasm, but when we say this

"we assert as much as we are justified in doing. Here we stand upon the boundary between life in its proper conception, as a group of phenomena having irritability as their common bond, and that other and higher group of phenomena which we designate as consciousness or thought, and which, designate as consciousness or thought, and which, however intimately connected with those of life, are yet essentially distinct from them.

When a thought passes through the mind, it is associated, as we have now abundant reason for believing, with some change in the protoplasm of the cerebral cells. Are we, therefore, justified in regarding thought as a property of the protoplasm of these cells, in the sense in which we regard muscular contraction as a property of the protoplasm of muscle? or is it really a property residing in something far different, but which may yet need for its manifestation the activity of cerebral protoplasm?

plasm?
"If we could see any analogy between thought and any one of the admitted phenomena of matter, we should be justified in accepting the first of these conclusions as the simplest, and as affording a hypothesis most in accordance with the comprehen-siveness of natural laws; but between thought and no analogy, but there is no conceivable analogy; and the obvious and continuous path which we have and the obvious and continuous path which we have hitherto followed up in our reasonings from the phenomena of lifeless matter through those of living matter here comes suddenly to an end. The chasm between unconscious life and thought is deep and impassable, and no transitional phenomena can be found by which as by a bridge we may span it over; for even from irritability, to which, on a superficial view, consciousness may seem related, it is as absolutely distinct as it is from any of the ordinary phenomena of matter. . . . That consciouslutely distinct as it is from any of the ordinary phenomena of matter. . . That consciousness is never manifested except in the presence of cerebral matter or of something like it, there cannot be a question; but this is a very different thing from its being a property of such matter in the sense in which polarity is a property of the manual or invitability of protonlasm. The generamagnet, or irritability of protoplasm. The genera-tion of the rays which lie invisible beyond the violet in the spectrum of the sun cannot be regarded as a property of the medium which, by changing their refrangibility, can alone render them apparent.

their retrangionity, can alone render them apparent.

The power of conceiving of a substance different from that of matter is still beyond the limits of human intelligence, and the physical or objective conditions which are the concomitants of objective conditions which are the concomitants of thought are the only ones of which it is possible to know anything, and the only ones whose study is of value. We are not, however, on that account forced to the conclusion that there is nothing in the universe but matter and force. The simplest physical law is absolutely inconceivable by the highest of the brutes, and no one would be justified in assuming that man had already attained the limit of his powers." limit of his powers."

This is a sensible and clear statement, and will perhaps be none the less acceptable for not pos-sessing the attractions (so often only skin-deep) of novelty.

The work of the various sections was of about the average quality, but the quantity was on the whole less than usual; the Biological side of the association, formerly its strength and its pride, has sadly fallen away, and in the section devoted to Zoology and Botany there were not twenty communications, and none of them of any great importance, while the section of Anatomy and Physiology sat only one day to hear five papers. The tide of popular interest appears to have set in the direction of Travel, Geography, and Anthropology, and, in the abs nce of greater "lions," the Portuguese explorer, Major Serpa Pinto, who has crossed Africa from Benguela to Natal, was the great

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All the sectional presidents delivered addr+sees. In section A. (Mathematical and Physical Science), which has shown great activity this year, Mr. G. J. Stoney gave a thoughtful sketch of the relationship of the exact sciences, with especial reference to the fundamental practical distinction in the method of their investigation, viz. by experiment or observation vestigation, viz., by experiment or observation, or by deduction or close reasoning. He especially referred to chemistry and to mechanics as the best for acquiring these two great modes of research, a command of both of which is essentially accommand. tial for a really sound knowledge of the other physical sciences. In his address to section B. (Chemistry) Prof. Dewar, inspired by the genius loci, spoke of the new process of steel manufacture and of the soda industry. Dr. P. M. Duncan, in section C. (Geology), was also influenced by local reasons in taking for his subject the great carboniferous formation. He considers it probable that the coal period was universal, and lasted during a vast time, but that the commencement and ending were not synchroned in different parts of the global. In section nous in different parts of the globe. In section D. (Biology), Mr. St. George Mivart was president, and contributed a lengthy address. He took for its foundation passages from the writings of the great French contemporary of Linnaeus, Buffon, a naturalist of great genius, whose speculations anticipated several of the modern views in biology, but were in advance of the knowledge of his time. Thus he clearly believed in evolution, and gives as the causes of the origin of new forms, modifications due to migrations, the direct action of surrounding conditions, climate, food, &c., and degradation. He also viewed each creature as the manifestation of an individuating force, lying, as it were, at the base of the changes manifested by it, and it is to the support and elucidation of this position that the bulk of Mr. Mivart's essay is devoted. He would restrict intellect and reason entirely to man, and thinks it absolutely different in kind from the intelligence of the lower animals; and he proceeds:-

"But if there is a radically distinct intellectual power of force in man, is such a distinction of kind so isolated a fact as many suppose? May there not exist between the forces which living beings exhibit other differences of kind? Each living being consists of an aggregation of parts and func-tional activities which are evidently knit together into a unity. Each is somehow the seat or theatre of some unifying power or condition which synthesises their varied activities, and is a principle of individuation. . . . To me it seems that we must admit the existence of such a living principle. We may analyse the activities of any animal or plant, and by consideration of them separately find resem-blances between them and mere physical forces. But the synthesis of such forces as we find in a living creature is certainly nowhere to be met with in the inorganic world. . . . It is, in fact, a mode of regarding living creatures with prime reference to their activities rather than to their material composition, and every creature can of course be regarded either statically or dynamically. As each living creature is a highly complex unity—both a unity of body and also a unity of force, or a synthesis of activities—it seems to me that we require a distinct kind of physiology to be devoted to the investigation of such syntheses of activities as exist in each kind of living creature. I mean to say that just as we have a physiology devoted to the several activities of the several organs, which activities are the functions of those organs, so we need a physiology specially directed to the physiology of the living body considered as one whole, that is, to the power which is the func-tion, so to speak, of that whole, and of which the whole body, in its totality, is the organ. In a word, we need a physiology of the individual."

For this new physiology, Herbert Spencer's

term, psychology, extended to its original signification (Aristotle's), to include also the vegetable world, should be employed. The aldress in the department of Anthropology was given by Mr. E. B. Tylor, who treated of the evidence for man's antiquity derived from race, language, and culture, independent of the geological argument; while that in the department of argument; while that in the department of Anatomy and Physiology, by Dr. Pye-Smith, was mainly occupied by a vigorous defence of scientific physiological experiments, against the recent ignorant outery and resulting meddle-some legislation. The endowment of research by Government funds was deprecated. In section E. (Geography) Mr. C. R. Markham gave first a general sketch of the objects and aims of geographers, and mentioned that the Royal Geographical Society had resolved to supply a course of instruction in scientific travelling to ersons about to visit little-known countries. The remainder of his address was occupied with an account of the topography of the valley of the Don, in which Sheffield is situated. Mr. G. Shaw-Lefevre's address to section F. (Economic Science and Statistics) was read by Mr. Mundella, the author being prevented by the death of his father from being present. It treated of the present state of agriculture, and the causes of its depression. In section G. (Mechanical Science) Mr. J. Robinson discoursed on the

development of the use of steel during the last forty years.

Passing on to the sectional proceedings, it is possible here only to allude to some of the more important communications. And first mention should be made of the admirable and interesting lecture by Mr. Crookes on radiant matter. By a series of the most ingeniously devised experiments having for their basis the passage of the electric spark through nearly exhausted tubes, he brought his audience to a clear apprehension of his subject, and face to face with "radiant" matter, or matter in a fourth state of existence, as far removed from a gas as a gas is from a liquid, the peculiar properties of which were skilfully demonstrated. In Physics, there was also a suggestive but purely hypothetical paper by the Rev. S. Earnshaw, on etherspheres as a vera causa in natural philosophy, to be noticed among a number of reports and communications. There was no paper of any great importance in the Chemical section. Mr. Weldon treated of the relations between the numbers expressing the atomic weights of the elements, a subject of increasing importance, Mr. Allen gave the results of researches showing the presence of minute quantities of nitrogen in steel, and Mr. Roberts exhibited some experiments with Hughes' wonderful voltaic induction balance, while Dr. Gilbert contributed an account of his long series of experi-ments on the growth of various cultivated crops, strongly tending to prove that, as now generally believed, the nitrogen of vegetation is derived from the soil. Passing to the Geological section, one of the best contributions was from the Abbé Rénard and Mr. T. Murray, and referred to the distribution in the ocean bed of volcanic products, as deduced from the observations of the *Challenger* voyage. An important paper by Mr. B. Ball on the coalfields of India contained some valuable statistics. In this section a discussion on some point of nomenclature led to the expression of a desire that the association would initiate an attempt to establish uniformity between different countries in the use of general terms in biology and the nomenclature of organs. Little requiring notice here was done in the department of Zoology and Botany. The committee for the investigation of the natural history of Socotra—which has been so quietly annexed to the British Empire that comparatively few people are even aware of the fact—announced that it was hoped that Col. Godwin-Austen,

with a competent staff, would go out next with a competent staff, would go out next winter and make a thirty only investigation of the island. Mr. Hobkirk's account of some new mosses found in the West Riding was the sole contribution to local Natural History; has Sueffield none of the enthusiastic field natural-ists of the North? In connexion with this section mention must be made of Prof. Lankester's lecture on degeneration, which directed to the proof of the fact that the environment of an organism may act in such a way as to cause degradation instead of progression—a position likely to be denied only by the most bigoted progressists. The Anthropologists discussed the antiquity of man, à propos of flint instruments dug out by Mr. Skertchly, in Suffolk, from below tough undisturbed chalky boulder clay. His contention that this proved the existence of man before the glacial epoch did not cause any before the glacial epoch did not cause any great sensation or provoke much opposition, though Mr. Boyd Dawkins, in a paper on the same subject, expressed his disbelief in any evidence of man's existence earlier than in pleistocene times. But at present such discussion seems to be about words and terms only. The Anthropometric Committee presented a report on height and weight, containing the tabulated results of a great number of observations. Good work was done in the Geographical presention. Major Pinto indeed did not tell us section. Major Pinto, indeed, did not tell us anything additional to what has been already published about his journey; but other African travellers were present, and the Comte de Brazza and Commander Cameron contributed papers on the native races of the Gaboon and the Ogowé, and on those of Urua. The series of memoirs on Afghanistan contributed by the military and other officers of the expedition was most valuable, and is a gratifying result of the recent war. Prof. Veth contributed an account of the Dutch exploration of Central Sumatra, and Mr. Black gave some new information relating to the eastern part of the course of the great River Brahmaputra, a portion of which has been recently explored by a native officer of the Indian Survey Department whose name was not given. In a paper on Arctic research Commander Beaumont advocated further attempts to get to the Pole by the Smith Sound route. He considered Com-mander Cheyne's ballooning scheme to be im-practicable, an opinion in which the president concurred. In the Economic Science section perhaps the paper of greatest interest was on scientific societies by Prof. Leone Levi, which contained a number of interesting facts and contained a number of involvening accessing statistics. There was a capital discussion on science teaching in schools following the reading of a paper on the subject by Dr. Gladstone. The first persons needing such instruction are the inspectors. In Mechanical Science there were communications on water supply, electric lighting, and other subjects of practical importance. M. Bergeron described a fireless locomotive, and Capt. Bedford Pim maintained the advantage of the route for the proposed canal across the Isthmus of Panama through Lake Nicaragua in opposition to M. de Lesseps

In point of numbers this year's meeting was one of the smallest known. The association will meet next year at Swansea under the presidency of Prof. Ramsay.

## SCIENCE NOTES.

THE German Anthropological Congress met this year at Strassburg on August 11 and 12. It was attended by 164 members from all parts of Germany. Prof. Fraas presided. Freiherr von Tröltsch, of Stuttgart, exhibited a set of prehistoric maps of South-Western Germany, Eastern France, and Switzerland; Dr. Ranke gave an account of the stone implements in

Bavaria; Prof. Frans s oke on the excavations of the Fürstengräber, near Ludwigsburg, which contained rich gold ornaments; Dr. Schaffhausen of Bonn, treated of skull measurements; von Virchow read a paper on his journey to Troy; and Dr. Meblis gave an account of the excavations in the Rh-inpfalz.

HERR MOREL FATIO, who is at present engaged in enquiries at the Pfahlbau settlements on the Lake of Geneva, has had the good fortune to find a very large boat, in excellent preservation, with the exception of a slight damage at the stern. It is not only a perfect "Einbaum," cut from one single tree, but is decorated with carred work at the prow, and measures thirty-two feet long by two and three-quarters broad. The specimen has been acquired for the Museum of Lucerne.

Chemical Denudation in Relation to Geological Time.—About three years ago, Mr. T. Mellard Reade, who was then President of the Liverpool Geological Society, delivered a remarkable address on "Geological Time." The author had attempted to estimate the amount of solid matter which is year by year stolen from the land and carried by the rivers to the sea in a state of invisible solution. This investigation opened out a suggestive method of gauging the time occupied in the deposition of our sedimentary rocks. Observations made during the yoyage of the Challenger furnished material for further study, and the results of this study were published in a memoir on "The Geological Significance of the Challenger Discoveries." Subsequently, the same line of enquiry was followed up in a valuable paper "On Limestone as an Index of Geological Time," a paper which was read before the Royal Society, and in which the author was led to suggest a minimum limit to the age of the earth. Mr. Reade has now reprinted these three essays, in the shape of a neat little volume, published by Mr. Bogue, under the title placed at the head of this paragraph. As the papers were duly noticed in these columns at the time of their appearance, the volume may be dismissed in a few words. It is sufficient to say that the papers are full of suggestion to the geological philosopher, and were therefore well worthy of republication; while the author's views, by being presented in this connected form, acquire a coherence which was wanting as long as they remained expressed only in detached essays.

The Central Meteorological Office of Italy (the Collegio Romano) has just issued the third part of a most useful series, forming one volume of 282 pp. imperial 8vo (Rome: imprimerie Héritiers Botta), which will be of great service to meteorologists generally. It contains a translation, in French, of all the reports (in extense or abridged) prepared upon the different questions comprised in the programme of the Second International Meteorological Congress held at Rome in April of this year, together with many other papers communicated to the Congress. The work has been undertaken with the view of presenting to meteorologists, not only the whole of the questions which were discussed by the Congress, but also the ensemble of the experiments and documents which formed the basis of each discussion, and which represent at the same time the opinion of savants from the whole of Europe upon the most important points of international meteorology. The translation has been carried out under the able superintendence of Prof. Guido Grassi, Director of the Roman Central Office.

FINE ART.

WE have received from the printers. Messrs. Field and Tuer, of the "Leadenhall Press," a piece of typographical work which would hardly do discredit to the "Chiswick;" but with this excellent and curious work of typography there is combined some artistic production and some literary matter which it is little less than remarkable to see in this connexion. Luxurious Bathing: a Sketch, by Andrew Tuer, is probably not intended as a joke; the essay on the various processes of the bath, and on their various processes of the bath, and of their aids to corporal sanity, is perfectly sensible and matter-of-fact, and might reasonably enough be embodied with other good sanitary counsel in a volume on health and regimen. But it is not without surprise that we find it accompanied by etchings which, whatever be their artistic merits, have little or nothing to do with the subject of Mr. Tuer's essay, and presented to the public, moreover, not in the humble 'covers" common to most of our utilitarian publications, but in a wonderful binding with fine vellum back and parchment sides, and the title printed in red letters as well as in black. This is certainly a curious book, arousing interest, if not admiration, and in its own way quite as remarkable as that last fanciful marvel of the "Chiswick," a volume printed in blue and red ink. We cannot here be occupied with discussing the text—bathing considered as one of the fine arts not deconsidered as one of the line arts not de-manding much notice even in these columns. But very noticeable are the twelve folio etchings which give some artistic value or suggestiveness to the singular volume. Mr. suggestiveness to the singular volume. Arr.
Sutton Sharpe, their author, is, we believe, yet
a young man, and these are probably among the
better of his performances. They lack technical
skill. Gradation and distance are wanting to his landscapes or representations of placid river water or wide sea. But the sentiment of his work is pleasant and homely. Why is it, we wonder, that not his work alone but so much of modern etched work is in the subjects it portrays much humbler and less assuming than most contemporary work in oil or watercolour? The etcher is very wont to dispense with sensation altogether and with elaboration besides, and to sit down before some quiet reach of river or some quaint granary or half-deserted street of country town, and to find in the mere presence, here of air and space, there of odd and agreeable combinations of line, that which inspires his art or, at the least, stimulates his etching needle. But, alas! these very simple themes which Mr. Sutton Sharpe much affects—themes which have nothing of the grand and the appalling—demand for their adequate treatment a very finished and capable art. One of Mr. Sharpe's etchings is devoted to the realisation of that pretty verse of Mr. Tennyson in The Brook-

"With many a curve my banks I fret By many a field and fallow, And many a fairy foreland set With willow-weed and mallow;"

and the directions of the poet are literally obeyed. Just such a scene is to be met with on going down to Brighton—a view from the railway carriage when we are well between London and the sea. It has often occurred to us that it was this bit of country that suggested something of the charm of composition in Frederick Walker's Right of Way. But, alas! Mr. Sutton Sharpe, though with the best aspirations in the world, is not yet Frederick Walker.

Painted Tapestry. By Julien Godon. Translated by B. Bucknall. (Lechertier, Barbe and Co.) The recently established manufactory of woven tapestry at Windsor is one of the most remarkable revivals of a nearly defunct indus-

tr which even this century has produced. "Decorate, decorate, decorate!" is a never-"Decorate, decorate, decorate!" is a never-cessing cry of the present day, and in the case of tapestry it chimes in with an ther cry quite we reem equally determined that there is no art which shall be "lost" beyond recovery, and that there is no square inch of our walls which shall remain unornamented. Revival and decoration are both excellent things, but they have their limits. When we have covered our walls with the most elaborate of wall-papers, and have hidden all the design with Chippendale mirrors, blue and white plates, and brass dishes, to say nothing of pictures, what are we to do with our tapestry? Some use even in ordinary houses, if the occupiers are wealthy, may be found for woven tapestry—if not on the walls, at least on the floor; we can have tapestry carpets, we can even can have tapestry carpets, we can even sit and lounge upon tapestry properly upholstered. More than this, there are doubtless large halls in ancient castles and mansions still existing, and even in modern buildings, public and private, to which the warmth and richness of storied cloths would be a welcome and appropriate covering for the walls. But woven tapestry is an expensive luxury, and our pleasure at hearing of the Windsor manufactory has been somewhat chequered with fears as to its chance of success. chequered with fears as to its chance of success. But what are we to say about this latest revival, or attempt at revival, of painted tapestry, or rather of canvas painted in imitation of tapestry? We cannot walk upon that or sit upon it; it must be hung, or stretched, or glued upon the wall. We are told that "to those as yet unacquainted with painted tapestry, no higher recommendation can be desired than the fact of its being employed by the distinguished French architect, M. Viollet-le-Duc, for wall decorations in his beautiful build-Duc, for wall decorations in his beautiful buildings." We are also told that these painted canvases are very durable, some dating from the fifteenth century still existing at Rheims in perfect preservation; that "they do not cost much more than wall-papers, and less than upholstery hangings, chintz excepted;" that "the process of painting with these liquid colours is simple, and can be easily learned by anyone possessing a previous knowledge of drawing in colours; and as the painting can only executed by the artist's own hands, it have all the merits of original work." we have said of the use of woven tapestry in large buildings will apply equally to painted tapestry; and the success which has attended the revival of the art on the Continent proves that this cheaper process may be usefully employed in such buildings as the New Opera in Paris. The work of M. Godon is excellent in in Paris. The work of M. Godon is excellent in its way, giving an interesting account of the history of tapestry, good descriptions of the most famous pieces existing, and careful lessons in tapestry-painting; but, nevertheless, we cannot protest too strongly against the manner in which M. Godon's treatise is now issued with a preface calculated to induce ordinary people to try their hands at scene-painting for the decoration of their own houses. The process is well worthy the attention of architects, and it may be of a few artists and private persons who have large wall spaces which they find it difficult to decorate otherwise; but it is not worth while for "any one possessing a previous knowledge of drawing in colours" to purchase (of the publishers) the whole apparatus of "liquid colours" and cloth, easel and painting table, stretchers and pins, writers and painters, under the notion that they can easily produce a gigantic picture "having all the merit of original work" at a cost "less than upholstery hangings, chintz excepted."

#### NEW ETCHINGS.

WE have been interested in observing an etching after Constable, which Mr. Robert Dunthorne, of Vigo Street, has sent to our office. It is the work of Mr. John Park, a young etcher of considerable promise—perhaps even of considerable achievement—who has made, at all events, some progress since his pro-duction of his earlier work after Constable, the picture in the National Gallery, and that of the house at Hampstead, known as "The Romantic House"—it is difficult to say why. Mr. Park's more recent effort, Flatford Lock—an etching which, though not very large, is yet of the same size as the original picture—is noteworthy as displaying more of the characteristics of an intensely individual painter than were seized in the prints of the Cornfield and of the Romantic House. In this last done stabiling Mr. Bank is House. In this last-done etching, Mr. Park is not only, like Constable, blotty, but also, like Constable, expressive in his blottiness. Others, too, of Constable's characteristics are in the print: the apparent absence of composition, the uncouthness of animal form—see the towing horse and see the bargeman—and the reliance, horse and see the bargeman—and the reliance, not here misplaced, on the effect of *chiaro'scuro* to redeem a work not otherwise beautiful. "Though my pictures have nothing else," said John Constable, "they shall have *chiaro'scuro*." The etching before us may not be thought wholly successful, or wholly executed under the condi-tions which one of the earliest critics of modern etching has laid down as inevitable. The "pure etched line," the "frank etched line," is little to be discerned. But how, indeed, translate Constable, who so much avoided line, into lines pure and frank? The effect not unwisely sought after has been, it would appear, an effect approximating to that of mezzotint—a process which deals wholly with blotesque spaces, and never with definite line. But mezzotint itselfand no approximation to its effect-is perhaps, after all, the best method in which to render the work of Constable. It has, at all events, been employed already-was employed, that is to sav, in Constable's lifetime—by Lucas, whose assemblage of prints after the master, made under the master's own supervision, is the most satisfactory record we at present possess of his art. But there is ample room for such an intelligent effort as this last one of Mr. Park's. There is very much of John Constable in Mr. Park's rendering of Flatford Lock.

MR. DUNTHORNE, of Vigo Street, has likewise recently published an etched portrait of the Dean of Westminster, by M. Léon Richeton. M. Richeton has somewhat softened his subject. The aspect of the dean in life is more pointed—it may be even more shrewd—certainly more valiant—than we find it in M. Richeton's etching. But as a chastened representation of a liberal and courtly divine, the portrait will no doubt find favour.

M. LHUILLIER, a very accomplished and intelligent artist on copper, whose bright, piquant, and finished work we have more than once had occasion to notice, has but lately executed an etching after Mr. Seymour Lucas. The original picture by Mr. Seymour Lucas is an exhibited one—having been shown at the Royal Academy in 1878. It is entitled As Dry as a Limekiln, and, though not altogether attractive, is a work of humour and character; and the humour and character have been fully preserved by the intelligence of the engraver. The period is the seventeenth century, the scene the interior of an eating-room where there has been no lack of excellent things, and the personage is a man who is familiar with drink, and now, in the latest stage of sobriety or the earliest of intoxication, is regretting that there remains upon the board little but empty bottle and empty cup. M. Lhuillier has treated what may probably be a popular subject in a popular

and effective way. In the face, greater subtlety of modelling is to be desired; but the expression is there, and the accessories are portrayed with that evident interest in objects of still-life which appears to characterise M. Lhuillier among those contemporary etchers who are translators of pictures.

#### OBITUARY.

THE veteran Swiss painter, Ludwig Vogel, whose works belong to a past period of art rather than to the present time, died at Zürich on August 21, at the great age of 101. He first studied in the Vienna Academy, but, expressing contempt for the methods of painting practised there, he was expelled from that institution and betook himself to Rome, where he joined the earnest band of German artists who were seeking to revivify religious art. He became in particular the pupil and friend of Cornelius with whose aims he had the fullest sympathy; and on his return to Switzerland he executed a large number of monumental paintings all having for their subjects scenes from Swiss history. Of these the most noteworthy are:—The Battle of Morgarten, the first picture by which he became known; Winkelried's Fight with the Dragon; William Tell embracing his Son; Nicolaus von der Flue and the Contending Confederates; Putting the Stone on the Rigi; Zwingli parting from his Family before the Battle of Kappel; Tell and Gessler at Altorf; and Schultheiss Wengi planting himself before the Cannon about to be fired on his Protestant Countrymen. As a painter, it is now generally admitted that Vogel's aims were beyond his powers, but his country will always be likely to value the large number of patriotic pictures that he has left as a national heritage.

M. JAN SWERTS, the Director of the Prague Academy, has lately died. Swerts was an artist who is perhaps better known from the position he occupied in the art world than from the work he actually achieved, but a large number of mural paintings in the Netherlands owe their origin to him. He was a corresponding member of the French Institute and of many other

NOTES ON ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY.

MR. WHISTLER has undertaken to execute during his stay in Venice a series of etchings, to be published on his return by subscription.

A MODEL, prepared by Mr. D. W. Stevenson, A.R.S.A., has been approved of by the Knox Monument Committee, and it is agreed that, if the funds admit, figures of Patrick Hamilton, George Wishart, George Buchanan, and Andrew Melville shall be placed at the four corners of the pedestal. The cost will probably exceed £2,000, but only a little over one-fifth of that sum has as yet been subscribed. If the consent of the municipal authorities can be obtained, it is proposed to erect the monument in the square to the west of St. Giles's Church, Edinburgh.

It is sought to perpetuate the memory of Milton as connected with the Church of All Hallows in Bread Street, recently destroyed, by a bust of the poet which has been set up in the new buildings erected on the site of the old church. The bust bears the inscription "Milton, born in Bread Street, 1608, baptised in the Church of All Hallows, which stood here ante 1878."

THE foundation-stone of the pedestal for the bronze statue of Burns, which is being executed by Sir John Steell, R.S.A., and is to be erected at Dundee at the end of autumn, was laid on Friday last.

THE Kirkcaldy Fine Art Association, under the presidency of Sir Coutts Lindsay, Bart., opened its eighth annual exhibition of paintings

and statuary on Monday last. The works of art exhibited number in all 683, a considerable increase over last year, and include many examples that have appeared at the Academy and Grosvenor Gallery in London, and in the galleries of the Royal Scottish Academy.

THE Brighton Sixth Annual Exhibition of Modern Pictures in Oil opened yesterday.

A LONG review both of the winter and summer exhibitions of the Grosvenor Gallery this year is contributed by Mr. Comyns Carr to L'Art of August 24. A number of artists' sketches, from their pictures, are admirably reproduced in illustration, especially a full-page drawing by Herkomer, from his magnificent water-colour, Life, Light, and Melody. In the same number, also, we are given a skilful etching by Chauvel, from Gervex's painting, Le Retour du Bal, in the last Salon.

PROF. OVERBECK is preparing a third edition of his Geschichte der Griechischen Plastik, and finds that, what with the new revelations made by the discoveries at Olympia and elsewhere, it is no easy task. Indeed, such has been the progress of archaeology during the last few years, that in many important parts the history of Greek art requires to be re-written. Even in the English language, which hitherto has been so silent on the subject, two new books are expected shortly, one of them by an American lady.

The lateness of the season has extended this year even to certain archaeological publications, in particular the Annali and Monumenti of the German Institute. The feature of the Monumenti is the long array of Panathenaic vases, published by De Witte, in all their natural colours, if not also their natural size. At the present moment a good deal turns on these vases, and such a publication of them will be welcome, though it may be felt that in such a work as the Monumenti they are a little out of place. In the Annali they are severally described with the precision and completeness which is expected in all the writings of an authority so high and so greatly admired as De Witte.

In the current number of L'Art Dr. J. P. Richter makes known a painting which he considers to be an early work by Correggio. From the time of Pungileoni, who described it, this painting, which represents the Virgin fainting in the arms of St. John, has been in the possession of the Rossi family, at Milan, but it is at present in London.

THE German Institute at Athens, having lately published in atlas form and evidently at great cost specimens of the painted vases found by Dr. Schliemann in his excavations at Mycenae, is now preparing to supplement this by publishing a complete series of the vases and other antiquities from tombs at Ialysos in Rhodes now in the British Museum. This work is under the direction of Prof. Loeschke, who is now in Dorpat, but is specially qualified for it by his recent residence in Greece and his intimate acquaintance with the antiquities of Mycenae, to which those of Ialysos have many resemblances. As regards the volume of Mycenae pottery already mentioned, it should be said that the plates are executed with great care and unusual success, but the authors of the text, Furtwängler and Loeschke, do not commit themselves to any theory. It is to be expected that, when the Ialysos antiquities are published, this reserve will be broken through, and, if so, the result will be particularly interesting, though it is hardly to be hoped that it will show the antiquities in question to have had a Hittite origin.

THE monument to the late Duke of Brunswick at Geneva, which created so much discussion at the time of the duke's death, has at last been satisfactorily accomplished, and will

be inaugurated on the 15th inst. The equestrian statue which surmounts the imposing structure is the work of the Swiss sculptor, M. Cain.

THE Municipal Council of Paris have added 1,000 frs. to the Béranger subscription list, and have given permission to the committee to place the statue of the poet in the gardens of the Temple.

An able and interesting sketch of the career of the celebrated French actress, Mdme. Favart, is contributed by M. Arthur Pongin to the current number of L'Art. A charmingly piquant portrait from a drawing by C. N. Cochin, in the collection of MM. Beraldi, and numerous illustrations of scenes in Les Moissonneurs and other plays in which she filled an important rôle, aid in making this fascinating actress of the past century known to us at the present day almost as well as the clever young artiste who now bears the same name.

THE Vienna archaeologist, Dr. Much, has discovered some prehistoric copper mines at Mitterberg, near Bischofshofen, in the territory of Salzburg. They were probably first worked by the natives of Noricum (the ancient seat of the Taurisci), and, as is proved by a coin found on the spot, were still in operation in A.D. 193, under the Emperor Severus Julianus, who only reigned two months.

A LARGE painting by Prof. Otto, of Munich, representing Queen Marie-Antoinette at Versailles receiving the homage of the French Court, is now being exhibited in the Gallery of the Grand-ducal Orangery at Carlsruhe.

THE Common Council of Solothurn has undertaken to pay the sum of 12,000 frs. for the redemption of the noble Madonna of Holbein, formerly belonging to the chapel at Grenchen, on the condition that the local Kunstverein will make over their whole collection (valued at about 80,000 frs.) to the inhabitants of Solothurn. The Kunstverein is to retain the oversight and management of the collection. This Madonna has had an eventful history, which is related at length by a Solothurn correspondent of the Neue Züricher Zeitung. Until the year 1856 the picture was hidden, "like a despised Aschenbrödel" (the German Cinderella) in an obscure corner of the Aller-Heiligen Kapelle at Grenchen; while at an Heiligen Kapelle at Grenchen; while at an earlier period, probably up to the middle of the seventeenth century, it had been an ornament of the great St. Ursus Church (the pro-cathedral of the later bishops of Basel) in Solothurn. Dr. Lachat, the ex-bishop of Basel, some years ago was made aware of the great value of the picture, but he did not know that it was a Holbein. The monogram "H. H." was first Holbein. The monogram H. H. was hist discovered by two artists from Augsburg, Herren Zetter and Buchser. They immediately sought to acquire the picture for themselves, and obtained it for a very small sum. They carried it to Augsburg, where they set about its "restora-tion." The inhabitants of Grenchen learned when it was too late what a treasure they had lost. After it came into the possession of the Kunstverein, to whom it had been pawned by Herr Zetter, they brought an action against the latter, and attempted to recover their late property. The case was decided against them. A well-known Swiss archaeologist has written a pamphlet entitled H. Holbein's Madonna von Solothurn und deren Stifter, which, as we under-stand, will be ready for publication during the autumn.

THE removal of the New York Town Museum to its newly erected building in Central Park has at length been satisfactorily accomplished. We have before stated that Gen. Cesnola was unanimously chosen last May as director of this increasing museum, of which the collection made by him in Cyprus forms so important a part. Under his active superintendence it is

hoped that much may be accomplished, but, unfortunately, the funds at the disposal of the trustees do not admit of any very extensive purchases. At present a sum of 150,000 dollars is especially needed for the purchase of an important collection of pottery, and also for the King collection of cameos and other antiquities. It is further hoped that it will be possible to found a department illustrative of the processes employed in various artistic industries, showing the different states through which the material worked upon has to pass before it becomes the finished product. But for all this money is needed, and the art-loving public of New York are being called upon to aid in the work.

#### MUSIC.

THE BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL.

II.

AT the close of my remarks last week I paid Sir Michael Costa a well-deserved compliment for the exquisite playing of the orchestra in Moses in Egypt. I am now unfortunately com-pelled to speak adversely of the conductor in relation to a performance of Beethoven's symphony in A which commenced the concert of Wednesday evening. It may seem strange that during his long residence in this country Sir Michael Costa should not have acquired some sympathy with the masterpieces of German art. But I trust that I am not doing him an injustice by saying that his method of conducting the symphony in question betokened a want of appreciation of the music. Mechanically, the rendering was excellent, except that in the scherzo there appeared to be some misunder-standing about a repeat. But the tempi in the first, third, and fourth movements were too slow, worse still, the nuances were by no means well observed. There was scarcely a genuine piane, much less a pianissime, from beginning to end. The remainder of the concert consisted of a strange medley of compositions, put together apparently with the idea of pleasing all tastes. The items which created the most enthusiasm were Mdme. Gerster's beautiful rendering of Bellini's "Ah! non credea," Verdi's "Celeste Aïda," finely sung by Mr. Maas, and the gavotte air from Mignon, piquantly rendered by Mime. Trebelli. But the most interesting feature of the concert was Gaul's part-song, "The Silent Land," in which the capabilities of the choir were attested most triumphantly. Finer un-accompanied part-singing it would be impossible to imagine. The chorus-master, Mr. Stockley, conducted, and the ovation he received was indeed well deserved. A new concert overture in F by Dr. C. S. Heap, a Birmingham resident, opened the second part. It would be unduly harsh to deny local ability the opportunity of asserting itself at a great festival. In the instance of a cantata or other work of extended proportions it becomes a serious matter, but the performance of an overture does not occupy very much time. Dr. Heap was a Mendelssohn scholar at the Royal Academy, and it is therefore fair to presume that he is a good musician. His claims as a composer will not, however, be advanced by this overture. The piece is correct as to form, and free from technical errors. But there is not a trace of original thought, and the orchestration is of the baldest character. Dr. Heap keeps the violins actively engaged throughout, the wind merely filling up the

On Thursday morning the Messiah was performed, and it might be thought that the bare announcement of the fact would suffice. That is not the ease, however, for so long as Sir Michael Costa maintains his peculiar notions concerning the manner in which Handel's masterpiece should be rendered, so long it will be the duty of the unbiassed critic to continue a firm protest. The allotment of certain of the

solos to voices different from those indicated by the composer; the slackening of the time at one passage in the "Hallelujah" chorus; and, above all, the ludicrous pianissimo at the commencement of "For unto us a child is born," are violations of Handel's intentions as meaningless as they are wilful. The solos were taken by Miss Anna Williams, Mdme. Sherrington, Mdme. Trebelli, Mdme. Patey, Mr. Maas, Herr Henschel, and Mr. Santley. Of these, the highest praise is due to Miss Williams, Mdme. Patey, and Herr Henschel. Mr. Maas sang "Comfort ye" exceedingly well, but was deficient in pathos in the Passion music, and uncertain in his execution of the runs in "Thou shalt dash them." Mr. Santley seemed a little out of voice, and Mdme. Sherrington, as usual, went far to spoil "I know that my Redeemer liveth" by a ridiculous display of affectation. Against these shortcomings must be placed the magnificent rendering of the choruses. Except in "And He shall purify," where E natural was persistently sung for E flat, it was impossible to detect an error, and the precision of some of the more difficult numbers—notably, "All we like sheep" and "He trusted in God"—was wonderful.

It was with pardonable feelings of anger and humiliation that musicians assembled for the concert of Thursday evening. The only work for which a commission had been given was to be produced, and that work was by a French composer. The unpleasant feeling arose, not because of the particular nationality of M. Saint-Saëns, for, as German and Italian art has frequently been represented here, it was but common justice to allow a hearing to a French musician. But it was felt that if the directors of the festival did not see their way to the production of more than one new composition, the invitation ought to have been given to an English composer. This consideration must not, however, be allowed any influence in estimating the value of M. Saint-Saëns' cantata, The Lyre and the Harp. Among the younger French composers of the present day M. Saint-Saëns holds a distinguished place. Born in Paris in 1835, he early manifested marked ability for music, and, at the age of twelve, his executive powers were already considerable. He now holds the post of organist at La Madeleine, and is, perhaps, the finest fugue player at present in Paris. As a pianist his capacity is by no means mediocre, as the London musical public are fully aware. His industry as a composer is untiring, and his works embrace examples in almost every department of the art. Among these may be cited the oratorios Noël and Le Déluge, the operas Samson et Dalila and estimating the value of M. Saint-Saens' cantata, and Le Déluge, the operas Samson et Dalila and and the Detays, the operas Sameon et Dania and Etienne Marcel, a Requiem, four piano concertos, and two symphonies. M. Saint-Saens is a well-read musician, and his writings show the in-fluence of the modern German school not less than that of Berlioz in a fondness for picturesque scoring and a disregard of the laws of form. This last quality is chiefly observable in his orchestral compositions, some chamber works being models of design and structure. present cantata is marked op. 57, and is dedi-cated to M. Henri Reber. It will be unnecessary for me to eulogise Victor Hugo's beautiful poem, which will be familiar enough to the readers of the ACADEMY, or to remark upon its sets out with a unisonal phrase for organ, followed by a tremolando for the violins, with accompaniment for wood-wind, and harp. These two figures typify the good and evil principles, the latter bearing a strong resemblance to the Venusberg music in *Tunnhäuser*. The Lyre commences the discourse in a quiet chorus in E flat, "Dors, ô fils d'Apollon," with a murmuring accompaniment. In the course of this we have a motive in six-four time, strangely like one in Wagner's Das Rheingold. The

Harp then speaks in a brief contralto solo, to which the Lyre responds in a more vigorous chorus. The next section, for contralto and bass solo alternately, is remarkable for its commencement, where the harmony hovers between the dominant of U minor and E flat with original and charming effect. Then the Lyre has a very extended movement for quartet and chorus, "Chantez, Jupiter regne," in which the two "Chantez, Jupiter regne," in which the two Wagnerian phrases are largely employed. This is a very effective number, but wholly by reason of the accompaniments, as the voice-parts are tame and uninteresting. Passing over two numbers of no particular interest, we come to a delicate little air for soprano, with a charming phrase for the flute. It is the Harp that speaks the words commencing, "La Colombe descend du Ciel." The next section, a duet for soprano and contralto—"Aime! Eros règne"—is also skilfully orchestrated. But the gem of the work is a duet for contralto and tenor, "L'Amour Divin." A most taking phrase in the accompaniment, for strings, to which the oboe makes an appropriate response, is maintained throughout, but without inducing weariness. The duet is succeeded by a brusque air for baritone, in waltz time, with a marked accent on the second beat of the bar. This is an ad captandum number, the scoring being heavy, with unlimited amount of percussion. Again the severe element prevails in a quartet written in a quasi-ecclesiastical style, and then comes in a quasi-ecclesiastical style, and then comes the percration of the work, a brief chorus in which the good and evil principles are again set side by side, the music dying away in the gentlest manner at the close. And here let me remark, parenthetically, that the poem does not imply the final triumph of Christianity over paganism, as has been asserted in some notices paganism, as has been asserted in some notices of the work. The Lyre calls to pleasure and forgetfulness, and the Harp responds with a warning note, telling of death and eternity, but the two forces are preserved in equation, the triumph of neither being foretold. The concluding stanza sufficiently shows the undecided state of the spiritual warfare. As for the English translation given in the vocal score, no words of condemnation would be too strong. It is awkward, if not incomprehensible in itself, and is not well suited to the music. I have described M. Saint-Saëns' cantata in greater detail scribed M. Saint-Saëns' cantata in greater detail than that of Herr Max Bruch because it is more likely to win a position in the repertoire of choral societies. It is not by any means a great work; the contrapuntal writing is of the mildest description, and the orchestration is open to the charge of trickiness. But there is much that is fanciful and pleasing in the music, and the composer, while not aiming very high, has attained the measure of his ambition. The has attained the measure of his ambition. The performance on Thursday was all that could be desired, and M. Saint-Saëns received the customary recall at the close. The solo parts were sustained by Mdme. Sherrington, Mdme. P. Ley, Mr. Cummings, and Mr. Santley. The miscellaneous portion of the concert included overtures to Die lustigen Weiber von Windsor and Guillaume Tell: the celebrated duet from and Guillaume Tell; the celebrated duet from Der Fliegende Hollinder, expressively sung by Miss Anna Williams and Herr Henschel; and various other operatic pieces which seemed to please the audience and so far justified their ausertion in the scheme of the festival.

To musicians, the programme of Friday morning was the most interesting of the week. 1 believe Cherubini's Requiem in C minor was not in the original scheme of the festival; if so, the after-thought was a very happy one. The work is one of the noblest inspirations of a great master. The neglect into which the writings of Cherubini have fallen is a reproach to the musical intelligence of this country. The Florentine composer wrote a quantity of sucred music in the early period of his career; but his finest works in this department of art fortunate condition of things is due to any cause

date from 1809 onwards. The C minor Requiem was first performed at St. Denis, on the anniversary of the execution of Louis XVI., in 1817. The fact that the whole of the eight movements are written for chorus has doubtless movements are written for clotts has doubtless militated against the frequent performance of the work. Again, the classic severity of its style marks it as a pattern of service music rather than as a fit piece for introduction indiscriminately into the concert-room. The direct melodic interest is less than in Mozart's Requiem, and of effect other than that which comes from the employment of the purest and comes from the employment of the purest and most rigid principles of composition, there is not a trace. A volume might be written on the infinite skill shown in the construction of the fugue, "Quam olim Abrahae;" but the movement is awe-inspiring in performance, simply because the hand of genius is observable in the manipulation of the dry materials. The final twenty-one bars of the work consist of a tonic pedal, on which a simple phrase is repeated again and again. But there is nothing in the again and again. But there is nothing in the whole realm of music more exquisitely touching than these twenty-one bars. It is idle to attempt to prove, as some would do, that because the grandest effects are procurable by the employment of contrapuntal rules in their integrity, composers who seek elsewhere for their materials are deserving of condemna-tion. Cherubini was unique in his time for his simple idealism; not one of his contemporaries or his successors could work with equal success on the lines he adopted. To take an extreme instance, Verdi's Requiem is ineffective just where the composer treads on the ground occupied with such majesty by his predecessor. In the performance of Cherubini's work, the chorus, for the first time, evinced decided symptoms of fatigue. Frequently, in passages of sustained notes, there was considerable flatness, though it is only fair to say that the ness, though it is only fair to say that the splendid fugue was given with power and spirit. The Mass was followed by Schubert's Salve Regina, op. 47, a piece written in 1815, for soprano solo, with accompaniment for two violins and organ; re-arranged for small orchestra in 1823; and published in 1826 as "Second Offertorium." It is thoroughly Mozart. like in style. Mdme. Gerster sang the trifle very tastefully. A splendid performance of the Lobgesang brought the morning concert to an end.

Handel's Israel in Egypt is always a worthy climax to a musical festival, and, making allowance for a few slips at first, the general performance on Friday evening was surprisingly good. But the feelings of musicians were outraged in several instances. To begin with, Mdme. Patey violated the composer's text for the sake of displaying her exceptional low notes. This may be condoned, for popular vocalists rarely evince the possession of genuine artistic perception. It is also possible to plead excuses for six Michael (texts's arter accompaniements but Sir Michael Costa's extra accompaniments, but not for such a sacrilegious proceeding as the addition of three chords at the close of the chorus "Thy right hand, O Lord." The egotism which alone could prompt the commission of this folly is, fortunately for music, as rare as it is deplorable.

I turn willingly from this humiliating subject in order to sum up the results of the festival. That the financial outcome would be unfavourable was distinctly foreseen, but the falling-off is more serious than might have been expected, even making the fullest allowance for the depression in trade. The largest receipts at any festival—£16,097—were gained in 1873. In festival—£16,097—were gained in 1873. In 1876 the sum reached was £15,160, and at the meeting just terminated only £11,729, being a smaller total than at any festival since 1861, when the amount was £11,453. It is of the utmost importance to consider whether this un-

beyond mere commercial depression. Criticism has before now borne good fruit. In 1876 the decreased excellence of the chorus was a theme of general remark. That fault has been amended, and the Birmingham choir once more occupies its proud position as the finest organisation of the kind in the kingdom. For this let Mr. Stockley, the chorus-master, have the highest praise that can be offered. The principal shortcoming to be laid to the charge of the present committee of management is the neglect to secure one or more important new works for secure one or more important new works for production. It is said that overtures were made to Herr Brahms and M. Gounod without success. But was a commission offered to an English composer? If not, the managers must be accused of a serious dereliction of duty, for which they cannot justly escape blame. Another point which presses for amendment is the arrangement of the programmes of the mis-cellaneous concerts. It is monstrous that the powers of a matchless orchestra should be frittered away in the accompaniment of operatio airs and the performance of hackneyed over-tures. Let it be noted that, at the concert of Wednesday evening, when Beethoven's sym-phony in A alone redeemed the programme from utter mediocrity, the attendance was less than on any other occasion. These are subjects which the management will do well to consider in the hour of adversity. The Birmingham festival is an institution of national importance, and its welfare should be dear to the hearts of all English musicians, whether professional or amateur. With a word of acknowledgment to the stewards for their uniform kindness and courtesy, and one of hope that the gathering of 1882 will be more successful in every sense than that of 1879, I bring my remarks to a close. HENRY F. FROST.

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